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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Marianas delegates call for probe of DoD funds spent in Marianas

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas delegates Gregorio Kilili Sablan (D-MP) and James C. Moylan (R-GU) along with Rep. Ed Case (D-HNL) have reached out to Department of Defense Inspector General calling for an investigation (among other services) regarding how DoD funds are being spent in the Marianas and the Indo-Pacific region.

Sablan

Moylan

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Palacios first CNMI governor to get FEMA federal clearance

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Last Monday, the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency issued PIV-I cards to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang at the Emergency Operations Center on Capitol Hill.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang were the first governor and lieutenant governor in the CNMI to receive federal Personal Identity Verification-Interoperable aka PIV-I access cards, which essentially grants them access to federal buildings and agencies nationwide.

Last Monday, the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency

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KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, left, and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang sit side by side after the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency issued them PIV-I cards at the Emergency Operations Center on Capital Hill.

Man arrested after obsessively stalking ex

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

After being arrested for allegedly stalking his ex-girlfriend and violating an Order of Protection issued by the court on behalf of the victim last April, a 33-year-old

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CHRYSTAL MARINO
Heirszan Tobias Martinez is escorted out of the Superior Court in Susupe last Monday after his bail hearing.

SMA: Debt CPA demanded payment for unsupported by detail

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Star Marianas Air, Inc. claims that the Commonwealth Ports Authority has demanded payment of over $1 million to be paid within 30 days without details to support the large sum.

Star Marianas chair Robert Christian, in response to Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog's plea for resolve between the airline and CPA, sympathizes with the island of Rota but states that unfortunately, a resolution

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INSIDE

BUSINESS
The CNMI SBDC lead network site hosted its inaugural "Christmas in July-Small Business Night" last July 25 at the Northern Marianas College As Terlaje Campus Building V parking lot.

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NATION
Former President Donald Trump has agreed to be interviewed by the FBI as part of an investigation into his attempted assassination in Pennsylvania earlier this month.

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LIFE & STYLE
The gold bikini-style costume that Carrie Fisher wore as Princess Leia while making "Return of the Jedi" in the "Star Wars" franchise has sold for $175,000.

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Local

Students explore educational career pathways with Teacher Academy Summer Program

The Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute and School of Education, in partnership with the CNMI Public School System Career and Technical Education Program, recently hosted the 2024 cohort of the Teacher Academy Summer Program.

TASP is a six-week summer program designed to introduce high school students and incoming college freshmen to various educational career pathways through rigorous core academic classes and industry-related, project-based learning.

Students focused on four main concentrations during the program: Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Special Education, Rehabilitation & Human

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NMC

The 2024 cohort of the Teacher Academy Summer Program, hosted in a partnership between NMC's Community Development Institute and School of Education along with the CNMI Public School System's Career and Technical Education Program, recently completed its six-week-long curriculum. TASP introduces high school students and incoming college freshmen to various educational career pathways through rigorous core academic classes and industry-related, project-based learning.

AS AUGUST DECLARED CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH

OAG wants to raise awareness of importance of child support

The Child Support Enforcement Unit of the Office of the Attorney General joins in celebrating the national campaign of Child Support Awareness Month. This campaign aims to spread awareness that there are children in our community who need financial support and services. As we all know, every child needs the financial and emotional support of both parents. The Office of the Attorney General's Child Support Enforcement Unit, works diligently to obtain the financial support necessary to raise, support, and improve each child's overall well-being.

"It is important that we raise awareness and remind our community that children need our support to live a decent life and to be successful. Our office will continue to exert all efforts to ensure that each child receives the financial resources necessary to live like everyone else. Our government cannot do it alone. It takes our whole community, from non-custodial parents, neighbors, friends, and employers to help a child without one parent succeed," said Attorney General Edward Manibusan.

Currently, the Office of the Attorney General-CSEU handles interstate child support cases. An interstate child support case is between two parents who live in different states. For example, one parent resides in the CNMI and the other parent resides in Guam or somewhere in the United States. The CSEU currently handles over 194 active child support cases. The Office of the Attorney General is exploring how to help families within the CNMI with interstate child support cases as well and is hoping to expand our services.

In 2023, CSEU collected and distributed a total of $402,833.91 in child support. This substantial amount encompasses $356,483.86 from non-custodial parents, $35,422.05 from Tax Rebates/Refunds, and $10,928.00 from Labor (FPUC/PUA).

Since January, 2024, the CSEU collected and distributed a total of $353,880.01 in child support. This amount includes $341,644.15 obtained from non-custodial parents, $10,055.86 from tax rebates/refunds, and $2,180.00 from child tax.

The CSEU advocates for the financial support of children by all parents. Notably, Public Law 20-47 empowers the enforcement of child support orders by implementing the suspension of various licenses, including but not limited to driver's licenses and fishing licenses, as a consequence of non-payment of child support obligations.

The CSEU emphasizes once again, the importance of employers' adherence to P.L, 20-60 (State Directory of New Hires), which mandates the reporting of comprehensive employee information. This includes data on current employees, new hires, as well as resignations within your/their business. The provision of such details equips the CSEU with the necessary information to facilitate and thereby bolster our child support enforcement capabilities

The Office of the Attorney General encourages the community to take an active role in helping all children to live a happy life. For more information regarding the Child Support services of the Office of the Attorney General, contact (670) 237-7500 or you can visit their website www.cnmioag.org. ***(PR)***

WIC CNMI
World Breastfeeding Week
BREASTFEEDING CHAMPIONS
What made you choose to breastfeed?
"I chose to breastfeed both to give my children the most custom-made milk for them and also for that bonding and closeness that sharing a breastfeeding journey allows... When I moved to the CNMI, I saw that there was very little breastfeeding support for new moms wanting to breastfeed, outside of the WIC program, and in my role as a pediatric nurse practitioner, I didn't feel like I was able to provide very much support either. I wanted to help fill the gap by becoming a lactation consultant and incorporating that support into the visits I was already doing with new parents and babies."
Heather Brooke, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, IBCLC, Mom of 3
If you could offer one piece of advice to new moms that are thinking of breastfeeding, what would that be?
"If you know you'd like to breastfeed, learn as much as you can ahead of time, before the baby is born. Read books or websites about breastfeeding, especially learning about what is normal in the first few days, and have a good understanding of how to correctly latch a baby onto the breast. Having a sense of what to expect (for example, knowing you likely won't see leaking milk until 2-3 days postpartum and that it's important for babies to practice for a few days on an "empty" (colostrum only) breast for a few days before milk comes in) can really help alleviate that anxiety about if baby is latching well and getting enough in the first few days, and also minimize risk of nipple damage and pain from an incorrect latch. There are lots of good YouTube videos and other reputable breastfeeding content for free on the internet."
Join us celebrate World Breastfeeding Week!
Minachom Atdao
Aug. 2, 2024 | 10:00AM - 2:00PM
Learn more about WIC Breastfeeding Support Services at (670) 664-4084 or (670) 236-8741 !
www.chcc.health
This AD is funded by USDA 202424W100347
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Thank You
On behalf of our CNMI children, their parents and families, DCCA-CCDF Program would like to thank its Community Partners for their continuous partnership and collaboration, most especially for their work with the Science of Early Learning Initiative-CNMI Brain Builders projects and events!
CNMI Family 2 Family Health Information Center
CHCC, Family 2 Family Health Information Center
Early Intervention Services
CHCC - System of Care & Healthy Transitions
Division of Youth Services
Joeten Kiyu Public Library
Healthy Families CNMI
CHCC, H.O.M.E. Visiting Program
CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities
CNMI University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
CHCC, MICAH
CHCC, CNMI WIC
Northern Marianas College
Filipino Community of Rota
Grace Christian Academy
Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.
Puesto Grill
DICE PACIFIC, LLC
DICE Pacific, LLC
Child Care & Development Fund Program
Evergreen Learning Inc.
BRAIN CNMI BUILDERS

Disability Network Partners celebrates 34th anniversary of ADA

By GREG BORJA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

The Americans with Disabilities Act, or the ADA, marked its 34th anniversary this past July 26. Signed into law in 1990 by President George H.W. Bush, the ADA is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in everyday activities. The ADA aims to ensure people with disabilities do not face discrimination as a result of their disabilities in employment, access to government, and access to businesses that are open to the public. Examples of access may include the removal of barriers, such as installing a ramp for a business that has steps leading to its entrance or modifying polices that accommodate the specific needs of a person with a disability.

This year, two events were held that celebrate the efforts of the ADA in making our community accessible to all people.

On July 26, 2024, the Disability Network Partners, or DNP, hosted the 4th Disability Sports Festival on Saipan. The festival was held earlier this year on the islands of Tinian and Rota. The sportsfest was created to provide opportunities for people with disabilities to engage in activities that promote health, socialization, and inclusion. The event was held at the Center for Living Independently buildings 1365 and 1366 on Capitol Hill and featured five modified and adapted sports, including seated volleyball, boccia, disk golf, washer toss, and cornhole. This year also marked the first competitive event with participants joining in a cornhole tournament. 42 participants joined in the celebration with 12 entering the cornhole tournament.

Thanks go out to the Disability Network Partners, which is made up of agencies around the CNMI that provide services to people with disabilities, including the Center for Living Independently, the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc, the Public School System's Special Education and Athletics departments, the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, the Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the Office on Vocational Rehabilitation. Special thanks to Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) for their contribution of water and tents.

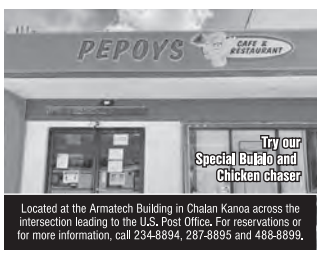
The following day, July 27, 2024, NMPASI hosted a cornhole tournament "funraiser" at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan. The first tournament was held back in 2014 as a creative way to increase awareness about the Americans with Disabilities Act. Due to circumstances the event was not held in the past decade, but organizers believed that this year would be a great opportunity to bring the outreach event back to the community. A total of 16 teams joined in on the celebration, competing in Round Robin group stages before moving to a single elimination tournament. Enjoying a sunny day and after competing in eight matches, three teams emerged victorio5.dus.

Thank you to Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan for providing the venue and their kind monetary donation. Thank you to all the participants, especially those who loaned their boards and bags for the event. ***(PR)***

Greg Borja is the executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc.

NMPASI

The Top 3 teams of the 4th Disability Sports Festival on Saipan cornhole tournament "fundraiser" pose for a group photo with NMPASI's Greg Borja. From left, third place Widow Makers (Steven Beyer and Dale Roberts), first place Na Para (Panapa Peteru and Norm Camacho), and second place Sunrisers (Joseph Fejeran and Joseph Muna).



Located at the Armatech Building in Chalan Kanoa across the intersection leading to the U.S. Post Office. For reservations or for more information, call 234-8894, 287-8895 and 488-8899.

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ZONING

... to improve our island's quality of life!

Public Notice of Proposed Zoning Regulations
Arongorongol Toulap reel Ppwommwol Mwóghutughutúl Zoning
Nutisian Pupbliku Put I Maproponi Na Regulasion Zoning Siha

The public is invited to review and provide comments on the proposed NABPMA of 2018 **REGULATIONS** on before **August 12, 2024.** You may view the regulations on https://cnmilaw.org, or website https://cnmizoning.com, or at the Zoning Office in Chalan Laulau (234-9661/2).

Nuisance Abatement and Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 (NABPMA)

Call us at 234-9661/2 or visit the
Zoning Office in Chalan Laulau for more information.

Temporary road closure for Lower Miha Village in Garapan

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to notify the general public of the ongoing sewer line replacement construction along Adetfa Street in Lower Miha Village, Garapan. The temporary road closure, initially scheduled from July 3 to July 17, and extended to July 31, will now continue until Aug. 31, 2024 due to unforeseen circumstances.

CUC's contractor, Hong Ye Construction, will continue temporarily closing Adetfa Street and Kalachucha Avenue to replace the existing ACP sewer line and establish a new route. This project also involves reconnecting residences affected by the construction. The temporary road closure hours are from 6am to 7pm, with possible adjustments based on tide level and existing hard rock conditions of the trench, affecting the groundwater level, and interfering with the construction work.

Detour signs will be displayed to inform the traveling public of the restrictions. Customers in the area will not experience any disruption to their power, water, or wastewater services as a result of the work.

The Lower Miha Sewer Line Replacement project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide a more reliable sewer system to the CNMI. The transition work is part of the decommissioning of the old sewer line and will be replaced with PVC pipes.

CUC encourages the public to avoid these areas during construction and appreciates your cooperation in accommodating the traffic restrictions necessary to complete this critical infrastructure improvement project for our customers. For more information, contact CUC's hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit its website, and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. In case of an emergency, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. ***(PR)***

Smoke test for Chalan Kanoa on Aug. 2

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be a scheduled smoke test on Friday, Aug. 2, from 9am to 2pm along Olympio Avenue in Chalan Kanoa.

The purpose of the smoke test is to allow CUC Wastewater personnel to perform a sewer connection inspection method.

A smoke test is a sewer inspection method whereby nontoxic smoke is forced into sewer system access points. The smoke makes its way through all connected pipes in the sewer system, thereby indicating pipe leaks, breached utility holes, cracks, uncapped lines, and other defects. Testers can also locate unknown pipe sections, such as cleanouts, downspouts, and sump pumps.

The smoke is nontoxic and nonhazardous and is manufactured specifically for this purpose. It leaves no residuals or stains and has no effects on plants or animals. The smoke is not expected to enter your home; however, if it does, it will have a distinct odor and should clear out within a few minutes with proper ventilation. Please be advised that all plumbing fixture drain traps must be filled with water before the test.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as it works to ensure reliable service for its customers. For more information, contact the CUC hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit its website, and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. For emergencies, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. ***(PR)***

MAN

From page 1

man is now facing charges of stalking, disturbing the peace, and violating an Order of Protection.

Heirszan Tobias Martinez appeared before Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho last Monday at the Superior Court in Susupe for his bail hearing, during which a $5,000 unsecured bail was placed on him. Public defense attorney Molly Dennert was selected to represent Martinez and Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds will represent the CNMI government during Martinez's preliminary hearing set for Aug. 2, 2024 at 10am. Martinez will also appear for an arraignment hearing on Aug. 12, 2024 at 9am.

During the bail hearing a family member offered to act as a third-party custodian. While answering questions from both the defense and prosecution, the individual appeared physically unwell and apologized to the court, saying he had just been released from the hospital. After completing his testimony, the individual who was visibly trembling was escorted out of the courtroom to be assisted by medics. The individual refused to be transferred to the hospital, and after being assisted by medics, third-party custodian said he was okay and was just dealing with a panic attack due to anxiety.

Camacho, the prosecution, and the defense questioned the individual's capability to supervise Martinez, but after a reassurance from the individual that there were other capable members in the household to ensure the court's requirements were met, and a plea on behalf of Martinez's child, the court released Martinez to the third-party custodian under strict house arrest.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

SMA

From page 1

is beyond SMA's control.

"I share your disappointment that this dispute has continued for so long. I recall flying to Rota a few months ago and giving you a detailed briefing about the issues we were having with the CPA, so your concerns are certainly knowledge-based. The lack of movement toward resolution is beyond the control of Star Marianas. The CPA has steadfastly refused to provide Star Marianas with the details of their billings. The rate books presented to Star Marianas and all other airlines for fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024 state that the content of those documents, in its introduction section, is not binding on the airlines or the CPA and yet go on to detail how they might move forward with billing the airlines once certain amendments to CNMI Regulation 40-10.1 are approved by the CPA's board. Even Regulation 40-10.1 provides a table that purports to be for illustrative purposes only," he said.

Christian states that CPA, rather than discuss long-standing issues, went ahead and demanded a payment of over $1 million to be paid in 30 days without details to support the sum demanded.

"Nonetheless, the new CPA administration decided that rather than discuss the issues that we presented to you (and them), a demand for payment of a large amount of money was necessary. Once again, the amounts in the demand letter the CPA presented to Star Marianas were just total amounts they claim are owed to them, unsupported by any detail, and seemed to be similar to the amounts that were very generally presented in the rate book which merely lumped total CPA expenses into terminal and airfield categories," he said.

"It seems we, together with all members of the community, can understand that being presented with a demand for payment of a large amount of money that has no supporting rationale as to why it is being assessed is an alarming and deeply disturbing action to take by a CPA with appointed management and given dictatorial authority with monopolistic power," Christian added.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

PALACIOS

From page 1

Management in collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency issued PIV-I cards to Palacios and Apatang at the Emergency Operations Center on Capitol Hill.

According to HSEM spokesperson Bernard Villagomez, this is the first time HSEM has incorporated the PIV-I program in the CNMI meaning Palacios and Apatang are the first CNMI leaders to receive these access cards.

Essentially the access card provides enhanced security features, including multi-factor authentication, identity verification, increased cybersecurity, and interoperability between local, state, and federal partner agencies.

"The access card represents a significant advancement in the security infrastructure of the CNMI, enhancing the identification and authentication process for key officials within the CNMI government," said HSEM in a previous press release.

In a statement from Palacios, he said with cybersecurity becoming an issue nationwide, these access cards provide an additional layer of security without the hassle of getting inspected every time he visits a federal building.

"Cybersecurity is an issue across the nation. It even critical here. With the access cards, you don't need to be patted down. Things are evolving in enhancing security, particularly cyber security," Palacios said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

MARIANAS

From page 1

In a letter addressed to DoD Inspector General Robert Storch last week, the congressmen essentially seeking answers regarding the department's anti-fraud activities in the Indo-Pacific region.

"Congress and the American people depend on your important work to protect taxpayer funds. Your auditors, criminal investigations and other professionals save our government billions of dollars and hold countless individuals accountable for their actions," said the letter.

The questions posed by the congressmen included what potential fraud risks has the DoDIG identified related to DoD dollars in the Pacific Islands region; what efforts has DoDIG taken to mitigate those risks; how often and in what locations has the DoDIG provide fraud awareness training in the Pacific Islands region over the last five years; what partnerships, if any, does DoDIG have with law enforcement officials in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or any other country in the Pacific Islands that carries high fraud risks for military dollars; and has DoDIG conducted any analysis into the potential need to assign investigative agents to the Pacific Islands region.

The congressmen state that the Inspector General's expertise is needed now more than ever in Indo-Pacific as the DoD increases its spending in our nation's priority theater, to include the Pacific Islands region.

"Our military is spending hundreds of millions of dollars in Pacific Island locations that do easily lend themselves to the level of oversight our nation is accustomed to ensuring. For example, all the services are spending millions of dollars on campaigning activities, such as Operations Pathways, in foreign locations that do not have an understanding of our nations' standards for accountability. There are also billions of dollars of infrastructure dollars that carry significant fraud risks. This includes the $7.3 billion of planned military construction in Guam, the millions being spent on Tinian, the roughly $500 million of airport improvements in the Federated States of Micronesia, a $120-million contract to build the structural foundation of a new U.S. Air Force radar station in the Republic of Palau, and the hundreds of millions that will be spent to build fuel tanks in the Republic of the Marshall Islands," said the letter.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

STUDENTS

From page 2

Services. Additionally, the CNMI PSS Chamorro Carolinian Language & Heritage Studies program was integrated as an additional focus that participants were able to learn more about.

The participants of TASP are paired with mentors from NMC's School of Education to provide guidance and support throughout their time in the program.

Recent high school graduate of Tinian Jr./Sr. High School, Tano King II, shared in his keynote, "Since my freshman year of high school, I have been dreaming of becoming a teacher. This dream has been a guiding light throughout my academic journey, influencing my decisions and choices I have made throughout high school. Joining the Teacher Academy Summer Program was a pivotal step toward realizing this dream. This program provided me with invaluable insights into the teaching profession, highlighting both its challenges and rewards. The experience has reinforced my belief that teaching is not just a job, but a calling that can profoundly impact the lives of others."

In his congratulatory remarks to the students of TASP, NMC School of Education director Roland Merar stated, "As you move forward, remember that the skills and knowledge you have gained during this program are the foundation of your bright future in education."

CNMI acting Education Commissioner Jackie Quitugua congratulated the participants on their completion of the program, "I commend each of you for your hard work, perseverance, and passion for education. Your journey as lifelong learners has only just begun, and I have no doubt that you will continue to make a positive difference in the lives of your students and communities."

Students who have completed the Teacher Academy Summer Program are given the opportunity to continue into the next phase of the program, taking a course each semester at NMC for five semesters, sponsored by CNMI Public School System, providing a head start on degree plans in the School of Education.

For more information about upcoming programs and training opportunities, contact the NMC-Community Development Institute at cdi@marianas.edu or call (670) 237-6802. ***(PR)***

UOG botany class identifies 16 weeds previously undocumented in Guam

Sixteen new weeds in Guam have been identified and documented in an internally published report by UOG botanist and assistant professor Dr. Wei Xiao of the University of Guam College of Natural & Applied Sciences and her students.

Xiao said the report will be useful for botanists as well as homeowners, landscapers, gardeners, farmers, and other residents who may be afflicted by weeds—otherwise defined as plants acting as pests. In garden and agriculture settings, weeds compete with other plants for resources and can ultimately reduce a crop's yield. They can also bring different insects and diseases to the field that can affect crop quality.

"The first and most important thing is to know what you are dealing with before you look into how to manage it," Xiao said.

Xiao, who holds a doctorate in plant biology and who also serves as curator of the UOG Herbarium, has been keeping a list of plants in urban environments in Guam that she has not seen before. She identified each plant species through her personal expertise and that of colleagues who are knowledgeable in certain taxa.

UOG

University of Guam biology major Santiago Poppe examines an ivy-leaved morning glory that his botany class discovered is an undocumented species in Guam.

Then, this past semester, she tasked her Plant Systematics class with looking for the plants in Guam and Micronesia botanical literature dating back to the 1970 publication "Flora of Guam" by Benjamin C. Stone, which Xiao said is the most comprehensive listing of regional plant species to date.

The students found that 16 of the suspected plants were, in fact, undocumented. By their common names, they are:

- Purple justicia
- Hairyflower wild petunia (violet ruellia)
- Prostrated ruellia
- Popping pod
- Latok
- Creeping indigo
- Caribbean stylo
- Purple cleome
- Ivy-leaved morning glory (mile-a-minute vine)
- Turtle vine
- Brittle false pimpernel
- Bloodgrass
- Shrubby false buttonweed
- Basil buttonweed
- White snakeweed
- Chinese grape vine

Few studies over the last two decades have updated exotic plant species in Guam. The most recent publication on weeds is the 2006 book "Color Atlas of Common Weeds of Guam" by James McConnell and Lauren Gutierrez.

"We are confident that the majority of species on our list are new [to the island] based on their record on Guam and their spreading history," Xiao said.

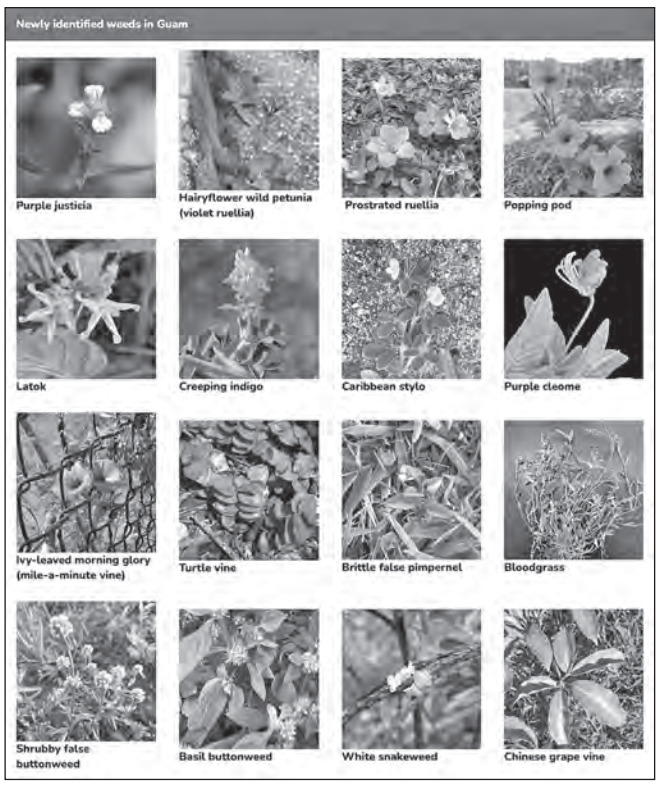
Xiao said that many of these new weeds have a pan-tropical distribution, so it is not surprising that they eventually arrived in Guam. But she also found that a few of the more aggressive new weeds are only common in the southern United States, which is important to know in examining how they got to Guam and measures that might help prevent new arrivals in future.

"We will need to keep an eye on them to see if they harm native forests or cause troubles in agriculture," she said.

The report on the newly documented weeds as well as fact sheets on some of these species—prepared separately by UOG Horticulture Lab research associate Michael Fernandez and UOG faculty Dr. Wei Xiao, Dr. James McConnell, and Dr. Mari Marutani—can be viewed at https://url.uog.edu/MGbMoE. ***(PR)***

UOG

University of Guam assistant professor Dr. Wei Xiao, left, and her Plant Systematics class from the Spring 2024 semester. The class worked on a project to review regional botanical literature for several potentially new weeds growing in urban environments in Guam. They found 16 species that were not in any prior literature.



Yap gets the cover in *X-Ray Mag*—the world's largest dive magazine

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Yap is the cover feature in the August 2024 edition of *X-Ray Mag*.

YAP, Federated States of Micronesia—Yap is the cover story and has a 21-page colorful spread in the August 2024 edition of *X-Ray Mag*, the world's largest digital scuba diving magazine. The European-based publication has close to 200,000 readers worldwide and its latest copy showcases Yap's varied scuba diving product, as well as its unique cultural and land-based attractions.

The highlight piece entitled "Seven Perfect Days Diving with Mantas and More," primarily focuses on Yap's tropical reefs that are teeming with diverse marine life, including majestic manta rays. Some of Yap's topside tourism activities are also covered in the article, including kayaking the mangroves, hiking the Tamilyog Trail, discovering stone money and viewing a traditional dance. The second feature that appears in the magazine is a detailed profile of Bill Acker, Yap's tourism and scuba diving pioneer and the founder of Manta Ray Bay Resort and Yap divers.

The content for the main article was contributed by world renowned underwater photographer David Fleetham, whose award winning work has been featured in publications such as *National Geographic* and *Life Magazine*. Fleetham is a frequent visitor to Yap and will be one of six photo pros participating in the upcoming 17th Annual MantaFest photo festival, which runs from Aug. 24 to Sept. 8, 2024.

Yap is an island in the Federated States of Micronesia in the Pacific Ocean that is ringed by spectacular coral reefs and famous for its scuba diving with giant manta rays, sharks, and mandarin fish. Other key activities on the island include kayaking, hiking, deep-sea fishing and exploring the many World War II historical sites. Yap is also uniquely famous for its stone money (huge disks of stone, which are still used today in major transactions), strong traditional culture and way of life, and welcoming residents. A short flight away from Guam or Palau, this Pacific gem is one of the tourism industry's best kept secrets. For more information: www.visityap.com. ***(PR)***

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Guardianship Of:	]	FCD CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0296
Bung Otiwii An Incompetent Person	]	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
By:	]	
Lily K. Rios Petitioner(s)	]	

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the above-named by (Name of Petitioner(s) Lily K. Rios, Petitioner(s), was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said Petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at the CNMI Judiciary before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio on the 2nd day of October, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/_____
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 500730
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Petitioner Barbara Reyes for Claimant Marianas Public Land Trust

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:	]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0169**
BERNADITA R. CABRERA, Decedent.	]	**NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**
	]	**DATE: August 15, 2024**
	]	**TIME: 10:00 A.M.**
	]	**JUDGE: JOSEPH N. CAMACHO**

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE BERNADITA R. CABRERA OF HER ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Barbara Reyes of Saipan, CNMI ("Petitioner") has petitioned the Superior Court of Northern Marianas Islands to Admit the Estate of Bernadita R. Cabrera, the deceased, to Probate for Letters of Administration and appointment of Mario Marc Cabrera Cepeda as a proposed Administrator of the Estate. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is 5960 Plate Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on Barbara Reyes's Petition for Letters of Administration and to appoint Mario Marc Cabrera Cepeda as the proposed Administrator is scheduled to be heard on the date and time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Guma' Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan. All interested persons and entities should appear at the hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or her estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claims should also be sent to ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the address hereinabove indicated.

Dated this 24th day of July 2024.

/s/_____
CLERK OF COURT

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (HIT)

RFP24-CHCC/HIT-023

INSTALLATION OF UNINTERRUPTIBLE POWER SUPPLIES AND TRANSFORMERS INTO CHCC INTERMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION FRAMES SITES

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, NMIAC Subchapter 140-80.1-205(1), CHCC hereby seeks the services of qualified Contractor to provide services to the Health Information Technology (HIT) Unit thru **RFP24-CHCC/HIT-023.**

The Request for Proposals will be available on July 24th, 2024 online at www.chcc.health, navigate to the RFP tab on the left navigation bar, click on the URL for this **RFP24-CHCC/HIT-023.**

A mandatory on-site assessment will be held on **July 26th, 2024 at 9:00AM** at the CHCC Conference Room 4, located right across Gift Shop. The Statement of Confidentiality will be collected prior to the actual on-site assessment.

Contractors shall submit proposals and all supporting documents to Corazon P. Ada, Director, CHCC Division of Procurement and Supply Office located at the Main Administrative Building or via email at procurement@chcc.health no later than: **1000hrs (10:00 am) Chamorro Standard Time on August 5th, 2024.**

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

May the Olympics bring the spirit of unity to a shattered world

As the Olympic Games formally kick off in Paris, the eyes of a hopeful nation will be on the United States team in its quest for glory. Our country is fortunate to send nearly 600 world-class athletes to France this year, and millions will watch at home as they compete across the Atlantic.

Central Florida will have favorites to follow, including the nicest human ever to knock your lights out—boxer Omari Jones, an Edgewater grad—along with triple jumpers Russell Robinson of West Orange and Donald Scott of Apopka, and more. Our hearts will swell with pride to see them on such a grand stage. May all Americans feel the same and view these Games as an opportunity for good-natured patriotism and national unity.

The Olympics tend to draw people into one of two camps: those who feel they are a glorious celebration of athletic prowess showcasing the world's most remarkable athletes, and those who view them as a staggeringly wasteful spectacle stained by corruption, abuse and greed.

In truth, there's plenty to admire, and plenty to disdain, about the Games. But only the most dour would dismiss the marvel of the international community coming together to compete against one another. Paris will welcome the world this summer—athletes, coaches and spectators alike—and the City of Lights hopes to shine brightly in doing so.

These Games will stand in contrast to those scheduled in Tokyo four years ago, but held in 2021 after a postponement due to the COVID pandemic. Attendance in Japan was limited, athletes were largely secluded and, for those of us on the East Coast, the time difference made the events a challenge to follow live.

Unchanged is that the United States and other participating nations are sending teams eager to compete on behalf of their home countries. The athletes wear their colors with pride, determined to be atop a medal stand as their national anthem plays and their country's flag unfurls.

That, in turn, inspires patriotism that we can hope blows across this country like an ocean breeze on a warm summer day. With a bitterly contested presidential election looming in November, a deeply divided America would be served by rallying around the dreams carried to Paris on the shoulders of U.S. athletes — our Olympic team — in the coming weeks.

In an ideal world, the next two weeks would see a suspension of global conflict as the international community gathers in Paris for the Summer Olympics. The tradition of an "Olympic Truce" dates to the earliest Games in ancient Greece, but was revived in modern times in an effort to promote the spirit of peace.

But it's not an ideal world. Suffering and strife abound, and two weeks of international athletic competition will do nothing to alleviate it. When the Games conclude, the plight of those affected will remain.

What we may take from the Games, though, is an understanding of our common humanity and the importance of every moment. Let these athletes and these Olympics inspire us to not just dream of a better world, but to commit ourselves to building it.

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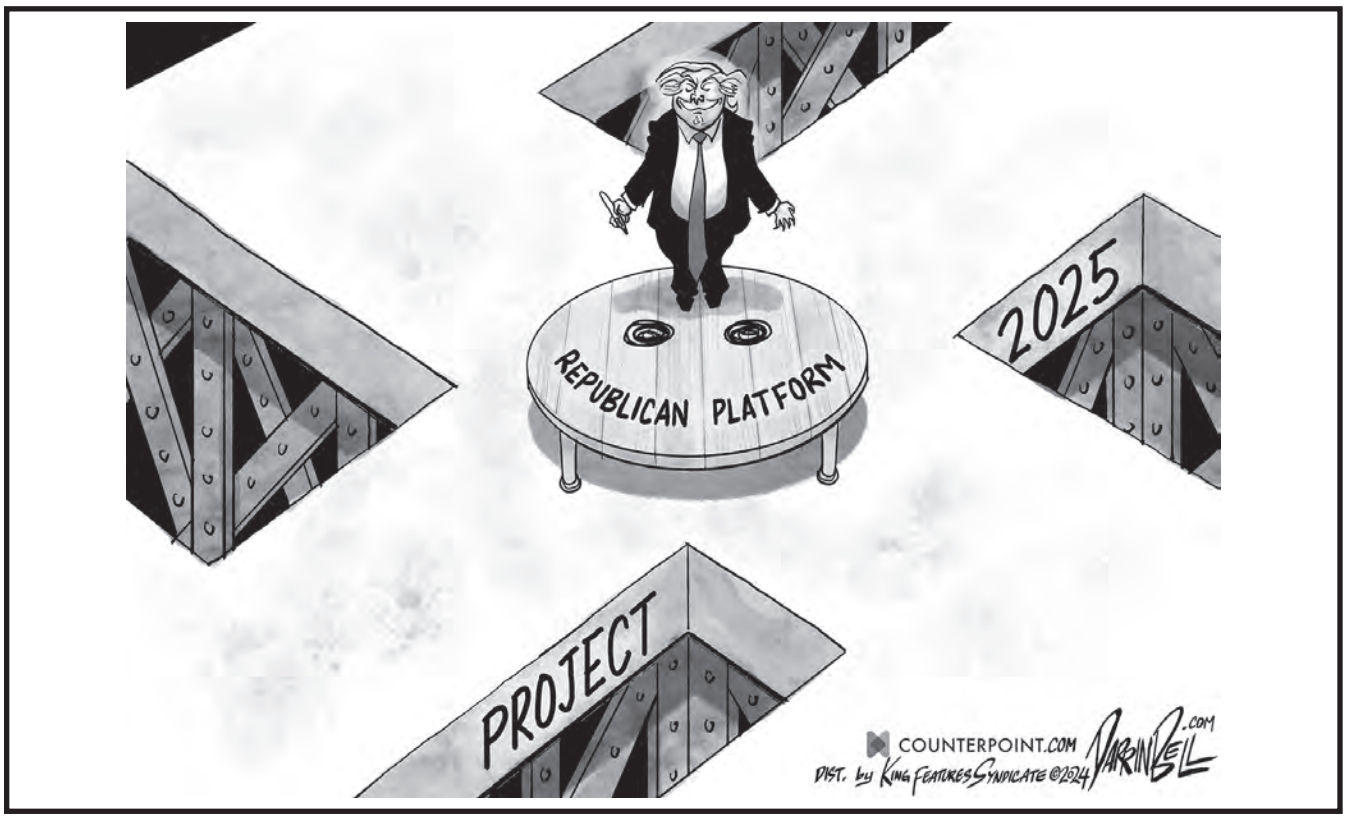


From LBJ to Scranton Joe

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive.

It was 11 PM when the president walked matter-of-factly into his living-room-like Yellow Oval Room on the private second floor of his family's historic Washington residence.

He was wearing a blue turtleneck and slowly spooning chocolate pudding from a small bowl. He looked like every guy who has just raided the fridge for a late night snack—and nothing like a commander-in-chief who had just stunned his nation and most of his own staff by announcing, well into the election year, that he wouldn't run for reelection, after all.

On this night, March 31, 1968, President Lyndon Baines Johnson sat with a handful of journalists who just happened to be around the White House so late at night. They were all White House press corps veterans—except for a young reporter in Newsday's Washington bureau.

As things turned out, I've ended up in the rare position of covering two beleaguered presidents who pulled out of reelection campaigns a half-century apart. But while my media colleagues rhapsodized in their reporting about the LBJ and Scranton Joe connection, their circumstances had virtually nothing in common.

President Joe Biden and I became friends back when he was a young senator and I occasionally kept him company on his nightly Amtrak commutes home. The best part was that we became old friends. The worst part was watching an old friend become an aging president.

Thankfully, Joe finally became convinced his failures of age could result in Donald Trump returning to the Oval Office and using his power to menace our democracy, once again.

Joe arrived in Washington after LBJ left. But he witnessed from afar how LBJ was misled by his military and defense leaders into believing more troops and more bombings would secure victory in Vietnam. Then came the January 1968 Tet Offensive: stunning attacks by North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops on South Vietnam's cities. Militarily, it wasn't an enemy victory. But psychologically, it shattered the faith of Americans who were lulled by years of false assurances.

Two months later, LBJ walked into his Oval Office to talk to his fellow Americans about Vietnam – and one other thing.

Earlier that night, LBJ's Press Secretary George Christian's staff had handed reporters copies of the advance text that, he said, was the president's Vietnam policy address. He added LBJ would make a few "personal remarks" at the end.

The reporters, all of whom were a generation or two older than me, began heading to their offices to write their stories. So I was surprised when the dean of the press corps, Peter Lisagor, the famous, white-haired Chicago Daily News bureau chief, suggested we should have a beer at the National Press Club, watch the speech there, then go downstairs to our offices and write our stories. I was flattered, but I said I'd better stay; because making "personal remarks" after that speech made no sense—unless something big was up. Pete said I'd be the only one who stays except the wire services and networks. And as he headed out, he laughingly added one more teasing observation: "Rookie!"

Well, I walked to the press secretary's office for guidance. But the place seemed empty—until I saw a young aide sitting in the dark of his closet-sized office—crying. He waved me away. Then I phoned my Newsday editor and said I believed LBJ was going to announce he's not running for reelection. I told my editor I had no hard sources, but suggested we immediately convert LBJ's advance obituary in our files into a retrospective of his presidency. If I'm right, I added, we'll have the best first edition in America. We did.

After LBJ's bombshell ending to his speech, George Christian told the few of us in the press room that the president would talk with us in his private residence. Sitting in the Yellow Oval Room, LBJ told us "the turning point" that led to his decision not to run, came five months earlier, when Gen. William Westmoreland flew from Vietnam to consult with him. Then came Tet.

Meanwhile, Washington's most famous journalists were dashing belatedly to the White House. The size of our press group swelled – and over LBJ's shoulder I saw a breathless Pete Lisagor enter. He saw me sitting with the president. Then LBJ looked away from me – I had my opening. I looked at Pete and silently lip-spoke one word:

"Rookie!"

Washington's white-hired journalistic icon convulsed in silent laughter. Pete and I were great friends until the day he died.

And you need to know about one other Washington icon who loved that story: I told it to Joe Biden during a commuter train ride. Of course, Joe knew Pete. And Joe knew well what it's like to be known as The Kid in Washington – whether it's The Kid in the Senate, or The Kid in the White House press corps.

But neither of us knew or even imagined that in the summer of 2024, Scranton Joe would be sitting where LBJ sat, behind that desk in the Oval Office – and also telling America he won't run for reelection, after all.

And it is important to note that today, Biden is receiving accolades for his selfless and patriotic decision to end his reelection campaign that are far grander than any praise LBJ received after calling off his reelection campaign in our war-torn America of 1968.

Epilogue: After making his campaign-ending announcement, Biden walked out of the Oval Office and into the Rose Garden. There he was greeted by staff members who were cheering, tearing – and also spooning from small bowls of ice cream, Scranton Joe's favorite dessert.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Tim Walz is the opposite of JD Vance. He should be Harris' VP

By PATRICIA LOPEZ
Bloomberg Opinion

Patricia Lopez is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering politics and policy. She is a former member of the editorial board at the Minneapolis Star Tribune*, where she also worked as a senior political editor and reporter.*

An unlikely—and mostly unfamiliar—name has catapulted onto the short list of potential Democratic running mates: Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz.

Walz seems to be everywhere lately, with a rapid-fire, folksy style that brings the heat to Republicans, articulates what matters to Democrats and corks off on GOP nominee Donald Trump and his new running mate, Sen. JD Vance, R-Ohio, without turning nasty.

"These guys are just weird," Walz said on a recent MSNBC interview, triggering a new meme. The GOP obsession with restricting women's rights, he said, makes it seem like "they're running for He-Man Women Haters Club." (That's an obscure reference to the Little Rascals. IYKYK.)

Vice President Kamala Harris, barely one week into her campaign after being endorsed by President Joe Biden on July 21, will have little time to select a running mate. A virtual roll call of states will be conducted by the party in early August and a ticket must be nominated by then to meet ballot access deadlines.

As she weighs her options, Harris should take a serious look at this relatable, rough-voiced Midwestern governor. He and his record embody much of what Harris values. There is less talk about saving democracy and more about redefining freedom: the right to reproductive choice, a level-playing field for the middle class and sensible gun reforms that keep us safe from gun violence. "That's the kind of freedom I believe in," Walz said in a social media post.

As governor, Walz, 60, has piled up progressive accomplishments. Minnesota passed universal free school breakfast and lunch for students when Republican governors were rejecting federal funds to feed students in the summer. When Republicans were banning books, Minnesota banned the book bans in schools and libraries. As state after state stripped women of reproductive rights and abortion access, Minnesota was at the forefront of protecting both. The state expanded voting rights, universal background checks for guns and red flag laws; championed protections for transgender individuals; legalized cannabis; instituted paid family leave; banned so-called forever chemicals and passed both the largest infrastructure bill and largest tax cut in state history. The values that Harris would run on, Walz has already put into law. That makes Minnesota a powerful laboratory for proving to voters what Democrats can do.

And while Minnesota is not yet a battleground state—though Republican nominee Donald Trump has vowed to flip it red, Walz's strong ties and familiar presence in Wisconsin and Michigan could go a long way to hanging on to the 35 electoral votes those three states represent should he be on the ticket.

Walz also just cuts a different figure from others in the veep stakes. A number of leading contenders—Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear—are lawyers and former attorneys general, just like Harris.

Walz is neither. Raised in rural Nebraska, his high school graduating class had 25 students. He enlisted in the Army National Guard soon after and would serve for the next 24 years, achieving the rank of command sergeant major. He specialized in heavy artillery and did a tour overseas with Afghanistan's Operation Enduring Freedom, though he never saw combat. His background could help balance a ticket with Harris, who spent much of her early years in the Bay Area and has no military experience.

He started teaching at South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, the poorest in the country. Eventually he settled in Mankato, Minnesota, a small river city, teaching high school social studies, coaching the football team to a state championship and doing lunchroom duty.

At age 42, Walz came late to politics. But when he did, he unseated a six-term Republican incumbent congressman. He soon became known for his quick humor, honed by years of trying to hold the attention of restless teenagers in class and on the field.

His no-nonsense approach to politics, however, is pure Army National Guard. Genial and self-effacing, Walz nevertheless can be tough and focused. The "Sarge" is always lurking beneath the smile.

He confronted crises early in his first term as governor, when the COVID pandemic broke, followed by the brutal killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer. That period proved to be Walz's rockiest patch, as Floyd's murder prompted protests abroad and riots at home. Republicans challenged his authority to impose pandemic restrictions. A major nonprofit scandal broke out on his watch involving pandemic funds.

Eventually, the cop was sent to prison for Floyd's murder, the economy rebounded with strong employment numbers, and those involved in the funds scandal are being brought to justice. Walz easily won reelection in 2022.

Walz also contrasts sharply with Vance, the GOP vice presidential candidate. A fellow Midwesterner who served in the Marines, Vance rose to fame with his 2016 book "Hillbilly Elegy." But, Walz said, Vance is "dead wrong about what makes small-town America tick. Small towns don't work because everyone is closed-minded and prejudiced. They work because people mind their own damn business."

There is a plain-spokenness to Walz, a common touch with the working class and shared values that make him both compatible and a good contrast teamed with Harris. And if Harris is looking for someone who can take the fight to the opposition, who better than an Army sergeant.

After the Trump shooting, Congress needs to keep the peace

By ROBERT A. PAPE
Los Angeles Times

Robert A. Pape, a professor of political science at the University of Chicago, is the director of the Chicago Project on Security and Threats.

At last week's congressional hearing on the Secret Service and the assassination attempt against former President Donald Trump, Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi asked: "What can Congress actually do to stop this from happening again?"

The congressman, a Democrat from Illinois, then showed the chamber a graphic on political violence that was published a month ago by the Chicago Project on Security and Threats, which I lead.

The graphic shows that 74% of Americans want members of Congress to come together to denounce all political violence. This stance crosses party lines, with 86% of Democrats, 51% of independents and 70% of Republicans saying so.

While individual members of Congress have made statements denouncing the Trump assassination attempt, Krishnamoorthi challenged the entire House of Representatives to go much further, proposing a resolution in the near future "condemning any political violence in America" and calling for support from every member of the chamber. Such resolutions go to the House for a vote and are not signed into law, but they convey a message—especially when they pass unanimously.

After last week's grueling hearing, the head of the Secret Service resigned, writing to her staff: "I take full responsibility for the security lapse." That departure will not prevent future bloodshed. However, Congress has a chance to do so.

At this critical time, members of Congress—both Republicans and Democrats—must stand together to oppose political violence. The Trump shooting is only the latest of a growing string of incidents. Indeed, we are seeing the most violent era in American politics in decades, and now is certainly the time for all political leaders at all levels of government—national, state and local—to adopt similar resolutions and make similar unified statements.

Political violence in the United States is entering a new stage as America faces mounting domestic terrorism: violent anti-government and other political actions by militias, small groups and volatile individuals within the United States.

To be sure, famous acts of domestic terrorism occurred from the 1990s through 2010, including the violent standoff at Ruby Ridge in 1992, the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, the violent protests against the World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle in 1999, and the multiple arsons and bombings conducted by individuals affiliated with the Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front from 1995 to 2010.

What's happening now is different. Political violence in America is escalating, both in number and in kinds of violent incidents. Since even before the pandemic, America has witnessed an era of political violence unparalleled at least since the 1960s. Incidents of domestic terrorism increased by 357% between 2013 and 2021, according to statistics collected by the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security.

Collective political violence is rising too. Since summer 2020, the United States has seen major political riots against police and downtown businesses during some of the George Floyd protests; a brazen assault on the U.S. Capitol to stop the peaceful transfer of power on Jan. 6, 2021; spikes of campus unrest to protest the conflict in Gaza in fall 2023 and spring 2024; and numerous lone wolf attacks and plots—including against the husband of then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi, against Justice Brett Kavanaugh and against Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

To better understand this new era, the Project on Security and Threats has set up more than a dozen national surveys in the three years since Jan. 6, 2021. These rely on high-quality nationally representative samples that match the American adult population on a vast number of demographic, political, economic, social and other factors, meaning it is reasonable to extrapolate the findings to the U.S. population as a whole.

The striking finding from our June 24 survey is that 10% of American adults—the equivalent of 26 million people—agreed that "the use of force is justified to prevent Donald Trump from being president." The poll also found that 7% of American adults—the equivalent of 18 million people—support the use of force to restore Trump to the presidency.

The assassination attempt against Trump less than three weeks later did not come out of nowhere. The shooter's motive is not yet clear—he seems to have researched President Joe Biden as a target as well—but in any case, we need to be concerned about copycat and retaliatory violence by volatile individuals steeped in incendiary political rhetoric, beset by mental illness or simply looking to gain notoriety. Such spirals of violence could occur against many political leaders and at numerous flashpoints in the months ahead during and after the presidential election.

No one can entirely prevent that, but for lawmakers, the next step is clear: Accept Krishnamoorthi's challenge and pass a resolution, unanimously, condemning political violence. This could make a major difference.

Just as studies show that incendiary political rhetoric encourages support for political violence, so too would public condemnation reduce it. Those taking violent political action are often volatile individuals, with their own reasons to act out, but also encouraged by the perceptions that they are serving some greater good. Some hope to be glorified as warriors for a cause. Leaders of those causes should make clear that no one who engages in political violence will be glorified.

The most effective message to reduce support for violence is a simple one: Political violence, wherever it comes from, is illegal, immoral and anti-American. Leaders should also contribute to a culture of prevention by encouraging political anger to be redirected away from negative expression as violence and toward positive expression as voting.

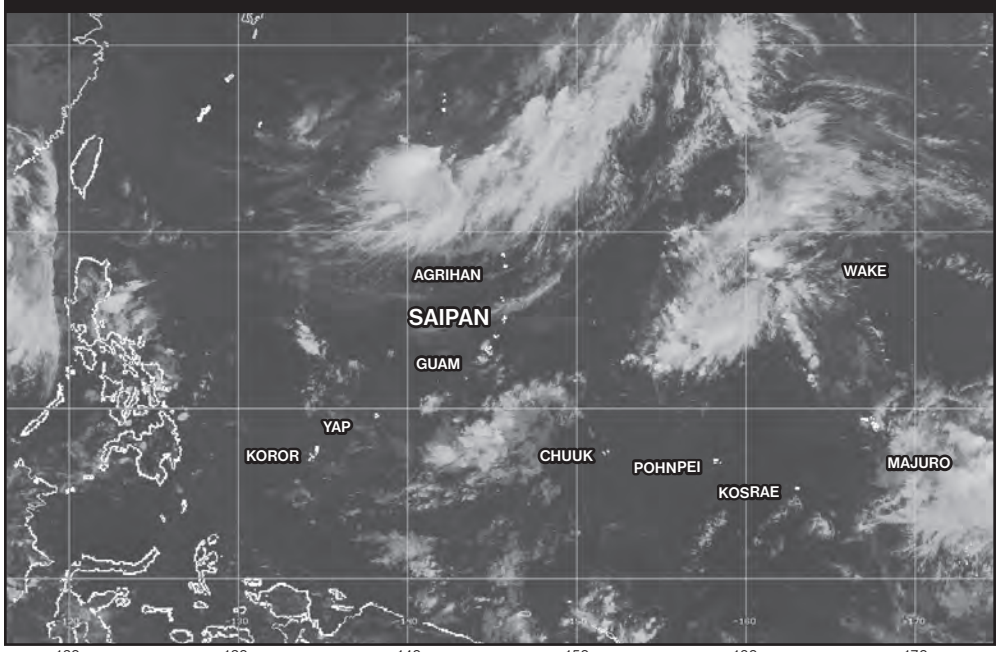
Since the assassination attempt, Biden has already given multiple speeches along just these lines. I hope that his courage will be contagious and that Congress will do its part. It is possible to reverse the rising violence and return to the peaceful traditions that made American democracy the envy of the world.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly sunny.	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny.	A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
86° 79°	87° 79°	87° 79°	87° 79°	87° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:36 AM TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Little change to the forecast this morning, winds are turning south on their way to a southwest direction Wednesday night. This is related to the monsoon trough paying us a visit. In due time, this will increase local shower activity. No surprise since the monsoon trough is pretty much what causes our wet season.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Fair	88° / 79°
Palau	Fair	85° / 77°
Yap	Fair	84° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Fair	86° / 80°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:59 AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:59 AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	5:59 AM	6:46 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:43 AM	3:16 PM	-
Thursday	2:38 AM	4:16 PM	-
Friday	3:35 AM	5:11 PM	-
Saturday	4:33 AM	6:02 PM	-
Sunday	5:30 AM	6:47 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	58° / 53°
Beijing	Light Rain Shower	95° / 78°
Hong Kong	Showers in the Vicinity	83° / 77°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	85° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	83° / 63°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	85° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 78°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 39°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
New York	Clear	82° / 70°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	95° / 85°
Paris	Sunny	89° / 66°
Busan	Thunderstorm	81° / 74°
Rome	Sunny	99° / 72°
Salem	Thunderstorm	83° / 72°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	66° / 56°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 78°
Tokyo	Rain	98° / 79°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	93° / 72°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:44 AM	Low Tide	2.02
10:44 AM	High Tide	-0.04
6:26 PM	Low Tide	1.86
11:01 PM	High Tide	1.53

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
7C2306/3472	11:10PM	4:40PM+1	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Christmas in July celebrates community, small biz success on Saipan

The CNMI SBDC lead network site hosted its inaugural "Christmas in July-Small Business Night" last Thursday, July 25, 2024, at the Northern Marianas College As Terlaje Campus Building V parking lot. The event, held from 5pm to 8pm, featured 24 CNMI SBDC client vendors who showcased a diverse array of products and services, including food, drinks, desserts, toys, makeup, apparel, and jewelry.

Christmas in July was designed not only to bring the community together but also to support small businesses in preparing for the upcoming holiday season. By offering an early opportunity to engage with the community, vendors could test and refine their offerings, gather customer feedback, and increase their visibility. This event was a vital platform for small businesses to boost their sales, enhance customer relationships, and prepare for the peak holiday shopping period.

"This event highlights the resilience and creativity of our local entrepreneurs," said Nadine C. Deleon Guerrero, CNMI SBDC Network director. "By providing a platform for them to showcase their products and services, we are not only helping them prepare for the holiday season but also strengthening the bond between our small businesses and the community."

The evening was filled with vibrant performances from the NMC Club of Artists. Local talents Chanel, Jason Lizama, and Jordan Paradise delighted attendees with holiday-themed musical performances, adding a festive atmosphere to the event.

A highlight of the night was the "Most Festive Table" competition, in which nine vendors creatively decorated their booths with holiday themes. Isla Krafty Corner won the competition, receiving a prize courtesy of CNS, Inc.—a "Small Business Christmas Company Party" lagoon cruise for four guests.

An interactive raffle drawing added excitement to the evening. Community members received raffle passports with 10 slots, each valued at $10. They were encouraged to visit vendors and make purchases of $10 or more to earn stamps. Each stamp equaled one raffle ticket, with the chance to win prizes generously donated by the participating vendors.

The success of the event was made possible by the hard work and dedication of several key players.

The CNMI SBDC extends its heartfelt thanks to the IT, Facilities & Maintenance, and Institutional Advancement staff at the Northern Marianas College for their invaluable support. It also appreciates the partnership of the Saipan Mayor's Office and CNS Inc., whose contributions were instrumental in bringing this event to life.

A special thank you goes to participating vendors: Divine's Essentials, Cherrymoon Co., Aoi_Neko, El Bishu, BxlBitz, Crafty Baeker, Tupu Cane Juice, Bobole's Novelties, RoberToy, Chiku Chiku, Mind2Muscle670, Ben Ki Store, CNS Inc., Isla Krafty Corner, Lanlan Tea House, Cookie Cove, Bibi's Crafts, NMI Artistry & Designs, TropicTreats670, LP Beauty, #Bumplife Maternity, Irie Scents, Flora Mixed-Flowers & Gifts, Samantha Salamon Photography. CNMI SBDC said their creativity and hard work brought joy and festivity to the community.

Lastly, CNMI SBDC extends its deepest gratitude to the community for their incredible turnout and continued support of the CNMI SBDC. Their participation makes events like these possible and helps CNMI SBDC achieve its mission of fostering entrepreneurship and supporting small businesses in the CNMI.

The CNMI SBDC remains committed to serving and elevating the entrepreneurial spirit in the Commonwealth. It looks forward to continuing its work to empower local businesses and contribute to the economic development of our community.

For more information about upcoming events and how to get involved, contact CNMI SBDC at (670) 237-6888 or via email at cnmisbdc@marianas.edu. You can also visit their website at www.cnmisbdc.com and follow them on social media at @cnmisbdc on Instagram or CNMI Small Business Development Center on Facebook.

The CNMI SBDC Network promotes a business-friendly economic infrastructure in the community, builds entrepreneurial capacity and financial literacy within that community, and provides current and nascent small businesses with the technical assistance, counseling, training, and support they need to innovate, adapt, and grow.

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network (CNMI SBDC) Network comprises the CNMI SBDC lead center located on Saipan, the Rota SBDC, and Tinian SBDC. The CNMI SBDC Network is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Northern Marianas College. All opinions, conclusions, or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with at least two weeks advance notice. For arrangements, please contact your local SBDC at P. O. Box 501250 Saipan, MP 96950, Tel: (670) 237-6888, or email SBDC Administrative Office manager Adelpha Magofna adelpha.magofna@marianas.edu. Services are extended to the public on a non-disciplinary basis. ***(PR)***

PHOTOS BY SBDC

El Bishu, a small business specializing in local confectionary candy, makes a transaction with acustomer at the CNMI SBDCN Christmas in July-Small Business Night.

The community was out in full force enjoying the festive evening and supporting our local small businesses.

Customers ordering from Tropic Treats 670, a small business specializing in "tanghulu" treats which are fruits coated in hardened sugar syrup.

Staff from Mind2Muscle, a small business specializing in athleisure apparel and workout equipment.

Staff from Tupu Cane Juice, a small business specializing in sugarcane juicing, with a variety of flavor add-ons.

The local community visiting the CNMI SBDCN Christmas in July-Small Business Night

Nation

AS PART OF INVESTIGATION INTO ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

FBI: Trump agrees to be interviewed

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former President Donald Trump has agreed to be interviewed by the FBI as part of an investigation into his attempted assassination in Pennsylvania earlier this month, a special agent said on Monday in disclosing how the gunman prior to the shooting had researched mass attacks and explosive devices.

The expected interview with the 2024 Republican presidential nominee is part of the FBI's standard protocol to speak with victims during the course of its criminal investigations. The FBI said on Friday that Trump was struck in the ear by a bullet or a fragment of one during the July 13 assassination attempt at a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.

"We want to get his perspective on what he observed," said Kevin Rojek, the special agent in charge of the FBI's Pittsburgh field office. "It is a standard victim interview like we would do for any other victim of crime, under any other circumstance."

Trump said in a Fox News interview that aired Monday night that he expected the FBI interview to take place Thursday.

Through more than 450 interviews, the FBI has fleshed out a portrait of the gunman, Thomas Matthew Crooks, that reveals him to be a "highly intelligent" but reclusive 20-year-old whose primary social circle was his family and who maintained few friends and acquaintances throughout his life, Rojek said. Even in online gaming platforms that Crooks visited, his interactions with peers appeared to have been minimal, the FBI said.

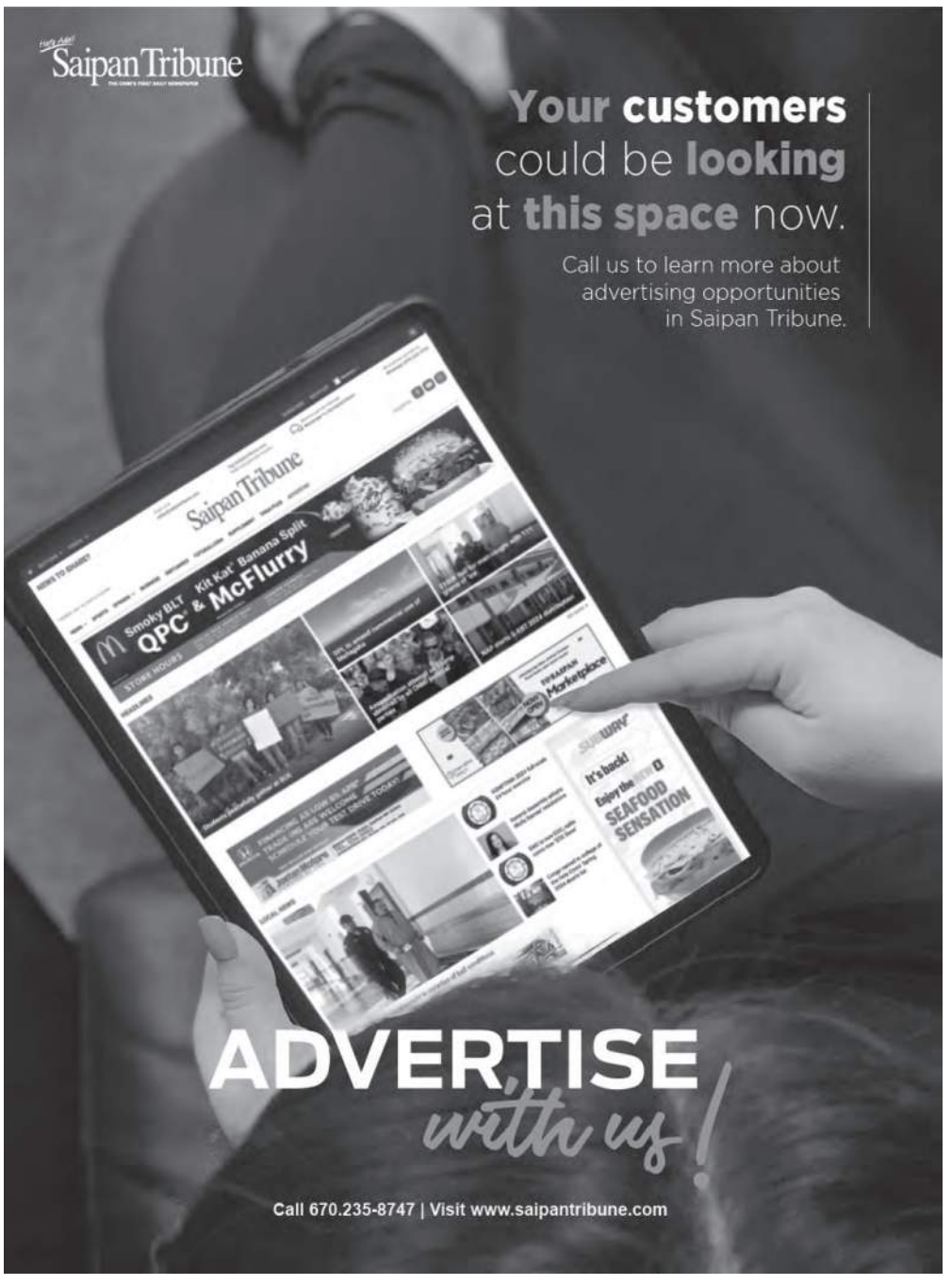
His parents have been "extremely cooperative," with the investigation, Rojek said. They have said they had no advance knowledge of the shooting.

The FBI has not uncovered a motive as to why he chose to target Trump, but investigators believe the shooting was the result of extensive planning, including the purchase under an alias in recent months of chemical precursors that investigators believe were used to create the explosive devices found in his car and his home, and the deployment of a drone about 200 yards (180 meters) from the rally site in the hours before the event.

The day before the shooting, the FBI says, Crooks visited a local shooting range and practiced with the gun that would be used in the attack.

After the shooting, authorities found two explosive devices in Crooks' car and a third in his room at home. The devices recovered from the car, consisting of ammunition boxes filled with explosive material with wires, receivers and ignition devices, were capable of exploding but did not because the receivers were in the "off" position, Rojek said. How much damage they could have done is unclear.

The FBI has said that Crooks in the lead-up to the shooting had shown an online interest in prominent public figures, searching online for information about individuals including President Joe Biden.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World

WORLD BRIEFS

US cautions Israel over escalation with Hezbollah after weekend attack

The United States on Monday cautioned Israel about escalation with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah as Israel weighs its response to a rocket attack from Lebanon over the weekend that killed 12 youths in the Israel-controlled Golan Heights. The attack increased concerns about a wider regional conflict, even as Hezbollah in a rare move denied having a role. Cross-border fighting between Israel and Hezbollah has occurred almost daily since the war with Hamas in Gaza began in October. On Monday, Israeli strikes killed two people on a motorcycle and injured three others in southern Lebanon, Lebanon's state-run news agency said. Israeli military officials said they struck Hezbollah operatives and infrastructure. An official with a Lebanese group told The Associated Press that Hezbollah has started moving precision-guided missiles but doesn't want a full-blown war with Israel. Hezbollah has far superior firepower than Hamas, and analysts have said that igniting a war in Israel's north while it's engaged in Gaza would overburden the military. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the site of the rocket attack on Monday, saying that "our response will come, and it will be severe." But some residents of the Druze village protested by tossing his wreath aside and saying the tragedy shouldn't be used for political purposes. ***(AP)***

Ukrainian troops say Russia has driven them out of 2 more eastern Donetsk villages

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian forces have overrun two front-line villages in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, a Ukrainian army sergeant said Monday, after relentless assaults that are part of a Kremlin summer push to overwhelm battlefield defenses there. Separately, attacks in Russia's Kursk region by the Security Service of Ukraine, also known as the SBU, struck a number of substations causing power outages, according to a statement from the General Staff of Ukraine. The claim of responsibility came after Russia said it thwarted a nighttime Ukrainian drone attack. "They pressed non-stop" to capture Vovche and Prohres, the chief sergeant of Ukraine's 47th Separate Mechanized Brigade, Oleh Chaus, told Radio Svaboda. "They sent in a large number of troops, which had not previously been used." Russia's Defense Ministry claimed in recent days that it had taken control of the villages, but the Ukrainian General Staff made no official comment. The villages lie about 30 kilometers (20 miles) northwest of Avdiivka, a Donetsk city that the Russian army seized in February after a long battle. That victory was the Kremlin's last major triumph in the war that is now in its third year. Russia's onslaught, fueled by its heavy advantage in soldiers and weaponry, has repeatedly forced the Ukrainians to pull back from defensive positions to avoid being captured or killed. Oleksandr Shyrshyn, the 47th brigade's deputy battalion commander, confirmed to local media that the villages had been taken. He blamed poor training of troops, low abilities of officers, motivation and inadequate weapons for the setbacks.

Police: 2 children dead and 11 people injured in stabbing rampage at a dance class in England

LONDON (AP)—Bloodied children ran screaming from a dance and yoga class "like a scene from a horror movie" to escape a teenager's savage knife attack that killed two children and wounded 11 other people Monday in northwest England, police and witnesses said. A 17-year-old boy was arrested on suspicion of murder and attempted murder in the stabbing in Southport, a seaside town near Liverpool, Merseyside Police said. The motive was not clear, but police said detectives were not treating the attack as terror-related. Nine children were wounded—six of them in critical condition—in the latest headline-grabbing attack amid a recent rise in knife crime that has stoked anxieties and led to calls for the government to do more to clamp down on bladed weapons. Two wounded adults who tried to shield the pupils were in critical condition, police said. "We believe the adults who were injured were bravely trying to protect the children who were being attacked," Merseyside Police Chief Constable Serena Kennedy said. The Taylor Swift-themed workshop was held on the first week of school vacation for children aged about 6 to 11. The two-hour session was led by two women—a yoga instructor and a dance instructor—according to an online listing.

US boosting alliance with PH with military funding and pact amid concern over China

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Washington's top diplomat and defense chief, in Manila for talks Tuesday, will announce $500 million in military funding to boost Philippine defenses and progress in a proposed military pact, given that China's increasingly aggressive actions in the region "will not stop," a Philippine official said. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin called on President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who has fortified Manila's decades-old treaty alliance with Washington as hostilities between Philippine and Chinese forces flared since last year in the disputed South China Sea. Marcos welcomed Blinken and Austin, praising the "very open" communication lines between Washington and Manila so that their treaty alliance and the issues on the South China Sea and the Indo-Pacific region "are continuously examined and reexamined so we are agile in terms of our responses." Blinken, along with Austin, expressed their condolences over the dozens of deaths wrought by typhoon-worsened monsoon rains in recent weeks and offered U.S. assistance.

Venezuelan opposition says it has proof its candidate defeated President Maduro in disputed election

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—As thousands of people demonstrated across Venezuela, opposition candidate Edmundo González on Monday announced that his campaign has the proof it needs to show he won the country's disputed election whose victory electoral authorities handed to President Nicolás Maduro. González and opposition leader Maria Corina Machado told reporters they have obtained more than 70% of tally sheets from Sunday's election, and they show González with more than double Maduro's votes. Both called on people, some of whom protested in the hours after Maduro was declared winner, to remain calm and invited them to gather peacefully at 11 a.m. Tuesday to celebrate the results. "I speak to you with the calmness of the truth," González said as dozens of supporters cheered outside campaign headquarters in the capital, Caracas.

Life & Style

Princess Leia bikini costume from set of 'Star Wars' movie sells at auction for $175K

HOUSTON (AP)—The gold bikini-style costume that Carrie Fisher wore as Princess Leia while making "Return of the Jedi" in the "Star Wars" franchise has sold for $175,000, according to the auction house that handled the sale.

The costume was made famous when Fisher wore it at the start of the 1983 film when Leia was captured by Jabba the Hutt at his palace on Tatooine and forced to be a slave.

The costume, one of the most memorable in the " Star Wars " movies, was sold on Friday by Dallas-based Heritage Auctions.

Joe Maddalena, Heritage's executive vice president, said the costume that was sold was one that was screen tested and worn by Fisher on the movie's set but ultimately did not make it onto the final version of the film as it was switched out for one that was more comfortable.

The auction house said the costume sparked a bidding war among collectors.

Maddalena said he wasn't surprised by the attention bidders gave to the costume as well as to a model of a Y-wing fighter that took on the Death Star in the original "Star Wars" film that sold for $1.55 million. He said "Star Wars" and "Star Trek" have very avid fan bases.

"The power of 'Star Wars' proves itself again. These movies are just so impactful," Maddalena said.

In a November 2016 interview with NPR's "Fresh Air," Fisher said wearing the costume was not her choice.

"When (director George Lucas) showed me the outfit, I thought he was kidding and it made me very nervous. I had to sit very straight because I couldn't have lines on my sides, like little creases. No creases were allowed, so I had to sit very, very rigid straight," said Fisher, who died about a month after the interview.

AP

This photo provided by Heritage Auctions shows the gold bikini-style costume that Carrie Fisher wore as Princess Leia while making "Return of the Jedi" in the "Star War" franchise, which was sold for $175,000 during an auction Friday, July 26, 2024.

Richard Miller, who created the costume, said in an interview that's included in a "Star Wars" box set that he used soft material to build the costume so that Fisher could move around more freely.

"However, she still didn't like it. I don't blame her," said Miller, who was the chief sculptor for Industrial Light & Magic, the visual effects company founded by "Star Wars" creator George Lucas. "I did put leather on the back of it to help it feel better."

The costume had its share of critics, who thought it sexualized Fisher for the franchise's male fan base.

In "Interview" magazine in 2015, Fisher told actor Daisy Ridley, who starred in "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," "You're going to have people have fantasies about you. That will make you uncomfortable, I'm guessing." She pushed back against the idea of being a sex symbol and told Ridley to "fight for your outfit."

3 members of The Nelons among 7 killed in Wyoming plane crash

Three members of the Nelons, a Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame quartet and the chairman of the board overseeing the Georgia Department of Corrections, were among seven people killed in a plane crash in Wyoming, according to a statement by a group member who was not aboard the aircraft.

The Nelons co-founder, Kelly Nelon Clark, her husband Jason Clark, and their daughter, Amber Nelon Kistler died in the crash Friday afternoon, according to a statement from another daughter, Autumn Nelon Streetman. She is the fourth member of the Georgia-based quartet.

"Thank you for the prayers that have been extended already to me, my husband, Jamie, and our soon-to-be-born baby boy, as well as Jason's parents, Dan and Linda Clark," Nelon Streetman said. "We appreciate your continued prayers, love and support as we navigate the coming days."

Also killed in the crash were Nelon Kistler's husband, Nathan Kistler, family friend Melodi Hodges, and Larry and Melissa Haynie, according to Nelon Streetman.

There were no survivors.

Larry Haynie was chairman of the Georgia Board of Corrections and was remembered for "a career of valued public service," according to a statement from Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp.

"Our entire family is asking everyone to join us in praying for those who have been lost, for their loved ones and communities, and for those throughout the gospel music community who have lost dear friends in this heartbreaking accident," Kemp said.

The group was traveling to join the Gaither Homecoming Cruise to Alaska, according to a statement from Gaither Music Group, the sponsor of the cruise that features numerous gospel singers and groups. ***(AP)***

Prosecutor opposes 'Rust' armorer's request for release as she seeks new trial for set shooting

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—A special prosecutor is opposing a request by a former movie armorer that she be released from prison while seeking a new trial and appeal of her involuntary manslaughter conviction in a 2021 shooting on the set of the film "Rust."

Kari Morrissey wrote in a response brief filed Friday that Hannah Gutierrez-Reed's motion for release "is premature given that the court has yet to receive completed briefing on the defendant's motion for new trial, hear arguments on the defendant's motion and rule on the motion in defendant's favor."

Lawyers for Gutierrez-Reed have argued her case should be reconsidered because prosecutors failed to share evidence that might have been exculpatory.

Gutierrez-Reed wants a judge to dismiss her conviction or convene a new trial in the shooting death of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins by actor Alec Baldwin.

Baldwin, the lead actor and co-producer for "Rust," was pointing a gun at Hutchins during a rehearsal on a movie set outside Santa Fe in October 2021 when the revolver went off, killing Hutchins and wounding director Joel Souza.

Gutierrez-Reed already has an appeal pending in a higher court on the involuntary manslaughter conviction.

She was convicted by a jury in March in a trial overseen by Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer, who later assigned the maximum 18-month penalty.

Baldwin's trial ended July 12 when Marlowe Sommer dismissed the case based on misconduct of police and prosecutors over the withholding of evidence from the defense.

Prosecutors blamed Gutierrez-Reed for unwittingly bringing live ammunition onto the set of "Rust," where it was expressly prohibited, and for failing to follow basic gun safety protocols.

She was acquitted at trial of allegations she tampered with evidence in the "Rust" investigation.

Secrets still held as union approaches end

DEAR ABBY: After many years of trying to keep our family together, divorce is our final option. My husband has had two affairs that I know of during our 30-year marriage. They hurt me deeply. We've had lots of counseling, but we can't get past the damage and breakdown in communication.

Should I tell our university-age children about the affairs? I kept them secret for years because he was a good father, and I didn't want to ruin my kids' relationship with their dad. But now that we are breaking up, I'm afraid I may be blamed when our situation is entirely his fault.

I did everything I could to save our marriage, including forgiving the first affair, which happened before our kids were born, and raising what I thought were happy and successful children with him. Now he has blown this up again, and I'm angry he gets to continue having a good relationship with our children.

At the same time, I have a good relationship with my elderly father, although I suspect he may have cheated on my mother. After all these years, I don't know for sure and I'm grateful I don't. What do you think? Should my children know the real reason why we split?

RESENTFUL IN CANADA

DEAR RESENTFUL: If your husband is true to form, your children will probably figure out for themselves that their dad has a character flaw. You stated that you are grateful you don't know the intimate details about your father. That's why I'm recommending you take a page out of your own book and refrain from the temptation to sling mud at your almost-ex.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My best friend and I both have children in their mid-20s. I don't understand why she coddles her son to the point that he is just now learning to do laundry, clean his own bathroom, pay bills, grocery shop or even attend doctor's appointments on his own. She always has some excuse as to why he wasn't taught life skills when he was younger.

When it came time for her son to move out, she bought herself a new home instead. She stated it would be easier for him and that he shouldn't have to pay the price of a house with interest rates where they are. She then spent an insane amount on a home and moved, buying new furniture for herself and leaving her old stuff for him.

How can she not see she's doing more harm than good when it comes to teaching him independence? Both parents do this to him. My daughter, age 18, has been doing these things since she was 12, and that includes cooking, yard work, laundry and housework besides just vacuuming. Doesn't my friend realize it's harmful to not have her son do things on his own? Am I wrong for thinking this way?

GOOD PARENT IN MICHIGAN

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

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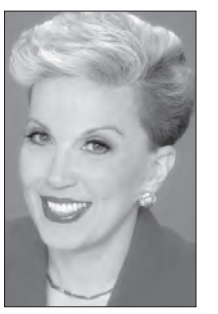

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR PARENT: You are not wrong. By not teaching her son survival skills he will need on his own (if he ever gets there), she has slowed his ability to fend for himself. This may have been an attempt to make his life easier. It could also have been an attempt to keep her beloved son dependent upon her as long as possible. Be thankful the young man is getting the lessons he IS being taught, even if they are a little late.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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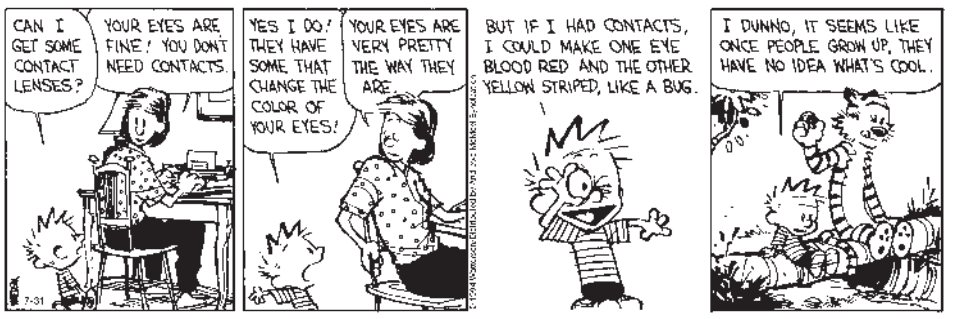
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

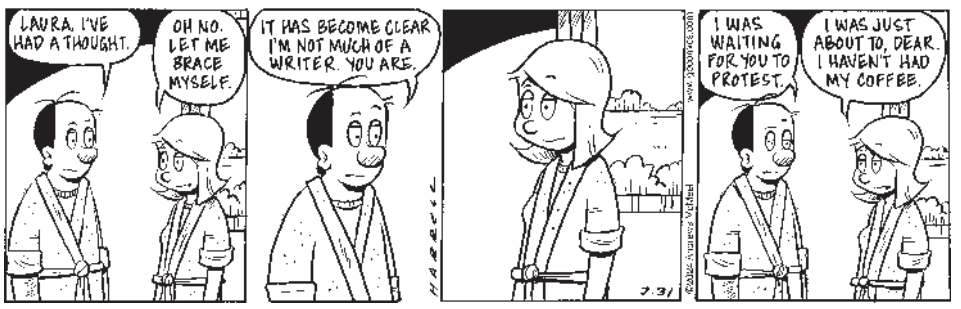

CAN I GET SOME CONTACT LENSES?
YOUR EYES ARE FINE! YOU DON'T NEED CONTACTS.
YES I DO! THEY HAVE SOME THAT CHANGE THE COLOR OF YOUR EYES!
YOUR EYES ARE VERY PRETTY THE WAY THEY ARE.
BUT IF I HAD CONTACTS, I COULD MAKE ONE EYE BLOOD RED AND THE OTHER YELLOW STRIPED, LIKE A BUG.
I DUNNO, IT SEEMS LIKE ONCE PEOPLE GROW UP, THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S COOL.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


LAURA, I'VE HAD A THOUGHT.
OH NO. LET ME BRACE MYSELF.
IT HAS BECOME CLEAR I'M NOT MUCH OF A WRITER. YOU ARE.
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU TO PROTEST.
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO, DEAR. I HAVEN'T HAD MY COFFEE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THEY SHOULD MAKE BEER-CHUGGING AN OLYMPIC EVENT.
SOME PEOPLE WOULD ARGUE THAT CHUGGING BEER DOESN'T REQUIRE ATHLETIC ABILITY.
AND CURLING DOES?
GOOD POINT. MAYBE BEER-CHUGGING WHILE CURLING.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Support group?
5 Marry
8 "Hey!"
12 Length times width
13 "Ben-—"
14 Black birds
15 Sticky situation
17 Novelist Jaffe
18 Fancy fiddles
19 Retort
21 Small taste
22 "Get cracking!"
23 Buddy
26 Crosses (out)
28 Disparaging
31 Physicist Niels
33 Knock
35 Diploma recipient
36 Prince in "Coming to America"
38 Ms. Farrow
40 Overhead trains
41 Detail, briefly
43 Ton fractions (Abbr.)
45 Pirate song chant
47 Quiet plane
51 Sapporo sashes
52 Can't-miss
54 "Arbitrage" actor Richard
55 Part of TNT
56 London gallery
57 Pro votes
58 Goal
59 Coaster

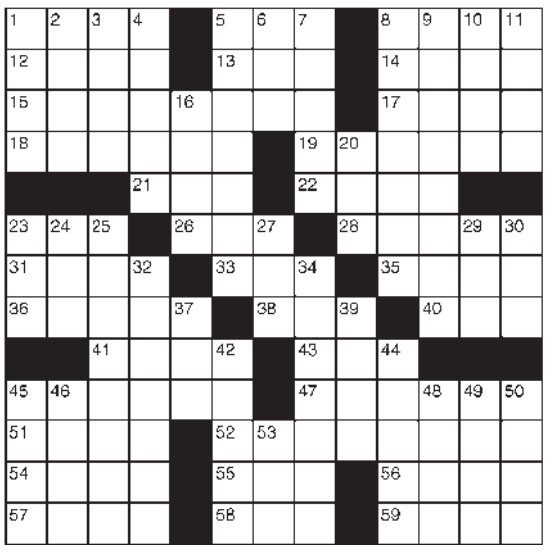
DOWN

1 Web pages for newbies
2 In — (stuck)
3 Close
4 Epic narratives
5 Trace
6 Where Lux. is
7 Fear greatly
8 Analyzing sentences
9 Winter wheel
10 Trig function
11 Romanov ruler
16 1509, to Cato
20 Refusals
23 CEO's degree, maybe
24 Fine, to NASA
25 — cat
27 Actor Waterston
29 Indian lentil stew
30 Cosmo VIPs
32 Lies
34 Wayfarer
37 "Whatevs"
39 Skilled
42 — Rica
44 Prepares flour
45 "Sun Salutation" discipline
46 Follow orders
48 Use an old phone
49 Art Deco master
50 Oboe, for one
53 Swiss canton

Solution time: 23 mins.

C	O	M	A	■	C	I	S	■	S	A	S	H
A	P	E	S	■	A	M	A	■	A	C	A	I
P	U	T	S	A	W	A	Y	■	I	N	I	S
S	S	S	■	R	E	X	■	S	L	E	D	S
■	■	■	S	I	N	■	S	O	S	■	■	■
M	O	C	H	A	■	L	O	Y	A	L	T	Y
A	R	N	O	■	W	A	X	■	W	A	R	D
D	E	N	O	T	E	D	■	W	A	G	E	S
■	■	■	S	I	B	■	R	O	Y	■	■	■
L	O	M	A	N	■	Y	A	K	■	T	W	A
A	V	O	W	■	G	E	T	S	A	W	A	Y
M	E	S	A	■	O	T	O	■	P	I	N	E
A	R	T	Y	■	B	I	N	■	R	T	E	S

Yesterday's answer 7-31



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rico Rodriguez, 26; B.J. Novak, 45; Zac Brown, 46; J.K. Rowling, 59.

Happy Birthday: Jump at the chance to explore possibilities, and expand your interests into areas of concern where you can make a difference. Learning, sharing information, traveling and deciding what's important to you will help you formulate a plan that wards off interference from manipulators and hesitation on your part. Change only what's necessary and benefits you. Your numbers are 8, 13, 24, 26, 37, 42, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Evaluate your daily routine and, with a grateful heart, consider the upside and how you can expand in a positive direction. It's time to face any negativity in your life and adjust circumstances to fit your dreams, hopes and wishes. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You may crave change, but making a move prematurely will lead to disappointment. Regroup and think before you sign up for or agree to something questionable. Refuse to let someone's friendly or kind gesture trick you into participating in a scam. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Act before someone tries to step in and take over. Use your imagination, speed and intellect to deter anyone from taking advantage of you by embellishing a situation. Concentrate on home and self-improvement instead of trying to please someone unworthy of your trust and affection. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Tune in to what's trending, and decide how to upgrade and use your skills to enhance an income increase. Refuse to let the changes others make or suggest throw you off guard or point you in the wrong direction. Follow your heart and do what's best for you. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Assess your health and emotional well-being. Consider what will boost your morale and encourage you to eliminate what's no longer working for you. Set boundaries, lower your overhead and ease stress. Consider what you are grateful for, and embrace what makes you happy. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Pay attention to detail and avoid mistakes. Use extra energy to help ward off arguments and frustration. Plan your day strategically to get as much done on your own as you can and you will feel good about what you accomplish. Love and respect yourself. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Claim your spot and keep things moving forward. It's up to you to incorporate what you want to happen by acting on your behalf and for those unable to do so. Plant your feet firmly behind your beliefs, and refuse to let anyone interfere with your plans. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Keep tabs on how you feel and what you do that affects your health and emotional well-being. Don't let poor behavior be your downfall or lead to loss. A change may tempt you, but unless it's within your means, do not participate. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Think before you speak or act. The recipients of your intentions will respond negatively. Look inward and transform yourself instead of trying to change those around you. A change at home may not suit your emotional needs, but it will surely meet your financial expectations. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Discipline will be necessary to avoid a loss. Emotional spending or investing in a scam or out of love for someone heading down a dubious path will not bode well. Practicality is necessary if you wish to avoid stress and uncertainty. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Put more time and effort into fixing up your space or adding to your convenience and comfort. Take up a new hobby or participate in an event or activity that excites you. Make relationships and personal improvements your priorities. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take a breather and establish what you want. Discussing your next move is only worthwhile once you feel confident of the outcome. Refuse to let a change or suggestion someone makes lead you into battle. First, figure out what's best for you. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, a crusader and a teacher. You are responsive and colorful.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			5		7	4		
		6				5	7	2
		3						1
9	1			2				6
		5			6	9		
6		2	8	3				5
3				1	2			9
	8			5	3	2		
5				8		3		

Difficulty: ★★★ 7/31

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	4	5	6	1	3	7	9	8
1	3	9	8	5	7	6	2	4
6	7	8	4	9	2	5	1	3
9	5	7	3	6	4	1	8	2
8	6	3	7	2	1	9	4	5
4	1	2	9	8	5	3	6	7
3	8	1	5	4	9	2	7	6
7	2	6	1	3	8	4	5	9
5	9	4	2	7	6	8	3	1

Difficulty: ★★ 7/30

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SOME NON-GMOS Solution: 4 letters

P	R	E	S	E	R	V	E	R	A	C	Y	D	O	B
O	R	E	E	N	I	G	N	E	L	O	G	O	S	E
A	R	O	N	P	R	O	T	E	I	N	I	A	C	A
T	P	G	D	V	E	R	U	P	O	L	F	O	E	U
M	E	P	A	U	I	F	U	T	S	E	T	D	A	T
E	E	A	L	N	C	R	A	F	R	T	I	O	Y	Y
A	R	C	A	E	I	T	O	U	O	C	E	O	R	R
L	F	K	B	V	O	C	T	N	I	T	M	F	R	O
A	N	A	E	P	E	L	N	T	M	S	U	R	E	T
V	E	G	L	L	U	R	S	O	P	E	S	U	B	A
O	T	E	L	C	O	E	I	O	C	R	N	I	W	R
R	U	S	I	C	P	M	R	F	(D)	I	O	T	A	O
P	L	R	G	R	O	C	E	R	Y	(I)	C	S	R	B
P	G	E	N	E	T	I	C	S	T	E	(E)	B	T	A
A	N	I	M	A	L	D	R	A	D	N	A	(T)	S	L

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Agriculture, Animal, Apple, Approval, Beauty, Beets, Body Care, Cells, Consume, Corn, Cotton, Crops, Diet, Engineer, Environment, Food, Fruits, Genetics, Gluten-free, Grocery, Icon, Label, Laboratory, Logo, Oatmeal, Oils, Organic, Package, Pesticide, Potato, Preserve, Product, Protein, Pure, Safe, Standard, Strawberry, Tofu, Verify

Yesterday's Answer: Charming

The NEW Wonderword Grand Millennium #1 in LARGE PRINT is now available at: www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Nadal loses in what is likely his final singles match of storied career

PARIS (AP)—On the clay court where he won 14 French Open titles, Rafael Nadal likely bid adieu to Roland Garros on Day 3 of the Paris Olympics.

Nadal was feted Monday by a rowdy crowd as he met Novak Djokovic in the second round of the men's tennis tournament for a record 60th—and probably final—time.

The Spaniard wouldn't say if he plans to retire after the Olympics, but his 6-1, 6-4 loss to Djokovic showed just how diminished his game has become at age 38. The chants of "Rafa! Ra-fa!" began as soon as Nadal walked on the court and even helped him win four consecutive games in the second set, including a forehand winner to break to make it 4-all.

After the defeat, the two-time Olympic champion was weary of being asked about his future. He's still playing at the Olympics, pairing with Carlos Alcaraz in doubles for Spain, and what comes next he does not know.

"I cannot live every single day with the feeling that it's going to be, or not going to be, my last match. I come here, I try my best, I play. And when I decide to stop playing, or when I decide to keep going, I will let you know. I don't know," Nadal said. "If I feel that I am not competitive enough to keep going or physically I am not … ready to keep going, I will stop, and I will let you know."

AP

Spain's Rafael Nadal reacts as he plays Serbia's Novak Djokovic during their men's singles second round match at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Monday, July 29, 2024, at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France.

Coco cruises

Coco Gauff is making it look easy at the Paris Olympics so far, adding a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Maria Lourdes Carle of Argentina in the second round of singles to her growing collection of lopsided results.

Gauff had more than twice as many unforced errors, 26, as winners, 11. She only put 55% of her first serves in play and wound up with six double-faults and zero aces. And even though it took nearly 1 1/2 hours for the reigning U.S. Open champion and No. 2-ranked Gauff to finish off an opponent who is ranked 85th, has never won a tour-level singles title and owns an 0-2 career record at Grand Slam tournaments, she was satisfied.

"You can't argue with the scoreline, to be honest," the 20-year-old American said.

Super swim

Canadian phenom Summer McIntosh claimed her first gold medal with a dominating victory in the 400-meter individual medley. The 17-year-old McIntosh collected her first medal of any color on the opening night of swimming, taking a silver in the 400 freestyle behind Ariarne Titmus — and ahead of Katie Ledecky.

She pushed the pace hard through the first half of the grueling race — the butterfly and backstroke legs — to leave everyone in her wake except American Katie Grimes.

Grimes, who is also swimming the open water event in Paris, held on to claim the silver and the Americans also grabbed the bronze when Emma Weyant touched third.

Another teen rules

David Popovici made the teenagers 2 for 2 on the night when he pulled off a thrilling victory in the men's 200 freestyle.

The 19-year-old Romanian was among three swimmers who swapped the lead back and forth on the final lap. Popovici mustered everything he had to get to the wall a mere two-hundredths of a second ahead of Britain's Matthew Richards, with American Luke Hobson just 0.07 back to earn the bronze.

The top four were separated by a mere 0.15 seconds.

Australia wins again

Mollie O'Callaghan and Ariarne Titmus made it a 1-2 finish for Australia in the women's 200-meter freestyle.

O'Callaghan's victory denied Titmus her second consecutive gold of these Games. Titmus won the gold on Saturday in the 400-meter freestyle.

Men's team all-around final

The Japanese men's gymnastics team claimed Olympic gold with an epic comeback over its top rival.

With China looking poised to claim its first Olympic title in 12 years with one rotation to go, Japan surged ahead to win the men's team competition after an intense and nail-biting duel.

The Japanese overtook their rivals on the final rotation, after China's Su Weide fell twice off the horizontal bar. Japan won with a small margin of 0.532 points.

The Americans, meanwhile, earned bronze for their first medal since 2008.

After qualifying in fifth place, the U.S. men ended a 16-year drought to the delight of the dozens of fans waving American flags who chanted "USA! USA!" throughout the evening.

The Americans posted a total of 257.793 points to edge Britain for the bronze.

US women's water polo loses

The U.S. women's water polo team was handed a rare loss at the Olympics, falling 13-11 to Bea Ortiz and Spain in a rematch of the final at the Tokyo Games.

The U.S. is going for its fourth consecutive gold medal. No team—men or women—has won four straight water polo titles at the Olympics. It was the program's second loss at the Olympics since it dropped the 2008 final. It went 5-0-1 in London, 6-0 in Rio de Janeiro and 6-1 in Tokyo.

After its 10-9 loss to Hungary in group play in 2021, the U.S. ripped off four straight wins by a combined score of 63-26. That included a dominant 14-5 victory over Spain in the final.

China dominates diving

China passed the one-time powerhouse United States for the top spot in gold medals in diving when Lian Junjie and Yang Hao breezed to victory in synchronized 10-meter platform. It was the 49th gold medal in China's history.

China came into the Paris Games favored in all eight events and essentially a sure thing to take down the American record for most golds. The Big Red Machine is now 2 for 2 at these Olympics as it looks to become the first country to sweep all eight events since the program was doubled at the 2000 Sydney Games.

Since that expansion, China has won 40 of 50 golds, including seven of eight at each of the last two Summer Games.

There hasn't been a diving sweep since the U.S. claimed gold in all four events at the 1952 Helsinki Games.

Canada Soccer appeals penalty

Canada appealed being docked six points by FIFA in a drone-spying scandal at the women's soccer tournament, and a verdict is expected hours before the team plays its last group-stage game Wednesday.

FIFA punished Olympic defending champion Canada on Saturday—and banned coach Bev Priestman and two assistant coaches for one year—for allegations of using a drone to spy on New Zealand's practices.

The expected legal move by the Canadian soccer federation and Olympic body was formally registered Monday by the Court of Arbitration for Sport in a fast-track case.

CAS said it aims to have an appeal hearing Tuesday with its panel of three judges giving a verdict by midday Wednesday. The coaches' bans are not part of this case.

Canada plays Colombia in Nice on Wednesday night and needs to know where it stands before the game starts.

Triathlon swimming canceled, again

Concerns about the water quality in the Seine River led officials to call off the swimming portion of an Olympic triathlon training session for a second straight day.

Organizers overseeing the event at the Paris Games are optimistic that triathletes will be able to swim in the city's famed waterway when the competition starts Tuesday.

The sport's governing body, World Triathlon, its medical team and city officials are banking on sunny weather and higher temperatures to bring levels of E. coli and other bacteria below the necessary limits to stage the swim portion of the race, which also includes biking and running.

World Triathlon made the decision to cancel the swim workout early Monday following a meeting over water quality in the Seine, which is closely linked to the weather. Rain deluged Friday's opening ceremony and showers persisted Saturday.

Talent-rich US men's Olympic basketball team still figuring out how to get most out its roster

VILLENEUVE-D'ASCQ, France (AP)—The question was apt, but at the same time a little flabbergasting for Stephen Curry to ponder.

Could he envision a scenario in which Kevin Durant, who shined in the U.S men's basketball team's Olympic-opening victory over Serbia, might continue to come off the bench?

"We're talking about Kevin Durant as a sixth man," Curry replied. "That tells you how good this team can be."

Highlights were plentiful for the U.S. in the Serbia win. LeBron James awed with his signature one-handed dunks and celebratory flexes. Durant had a nearly perfect shooting night in his first official basketball game in two months because of a calf strain.

And everybody – who played that is – scored.

That's because just as eye-popping was that Jayson Tatum – the newly minted highest-paid player in the NBA – and Tyrese Haliburton, who recently signed franchise record contract himself, didn't see the court.

It illustrates the embarrassment of riches that exists for a team that says it's still figuring out how best to utilize its talent.

"We're still trying to build identity around who we are with this 12-man group," Curry said. "It's important to stay focused on not just getting a win, but how we do it."

Coach Steve Kerr said aside from it being almost impossible to give sufficient minutes to 12 players in a 40-minute game, the idea of sitting Tatum in particular struck him as just as unfathomable.

"It seems crazy. I thought I was crazy when I looked at everything and determined these are the lineups I wanted to get to. Jayson's first team All-NBA three years in a row. He's one of the best players in the world."

So good that Kerr said on Monday that Tatum will play when the team plays South Sudan on Wednesday.

Complicating Kerr's decision-making going forward is that Durant's contributions off the bench continued a trend that started during the exhibition portion of the leadup to the Olympics, in which the reserves have provided needed jolts for a team prone to slow starts and turnovers. The turnover total was 17 against Serbia.

And that, too, is the result of trying to find the proper rotations on a roster layered with skill.

Curry even acknowledged being nervous before making his Olympic team debut. It showed at times when he was beaten on a couple of back cuts on defense and had another turnover on an inbounds pass.

But he also thinks the answer to fixing those issues is not getting in their heads about it.

"It's just a matter of everybody being ready to do what you're asked to do, because every game is going to be a little different," Curry said. "You can pick any five of us 12 and it's a Hall of Fame lineup out there. We just have to play like it."

Ramírez hits 2 homers to help Guardians rout rebuilding Tigers, 8-4

DETROIT (AP)—José Ramírez homered twice to give him 26 this season and had an RBI double, providing plenty of offense for the AL Central-leading Cleveland Guardians in an 8-4 win over the Detroit Tigers on Monday night.

"He just continues to amaze me on a nightly basis," Cleveland manager Stephen Vogt said.

Ramírez's second homer was No. 242 of his career, tying him with Albert Belle for second in Cleveland history behind Jim Thome's 337. He has 25 multihomer games, one shy of the totals of Thome and Belle.

"The most important part of trying to win," Ramírez said.

Tanner Bibee Bibee (9-4) kept the Tigers scoreless until they opened the seventh inning with three straight hits, including Dillon Dingler's RBI double in his major league debut. That chased Bibee, who gave up two runs on seven hits in six-plus innings.

All-Star Josh Naylor returned to the lineup after resting the previous three games and scored when his brother, Bo, hit a three-run homer off in the three-run sixth that put Cleveland ahead 7-0

The Guardians made a move on the eve of trade deadline, acquiring outfielder Lane Thomas from Washington.

"One of our goals heading into the deadline was to try to find a way to lengthen the lineup and add some offense," Guardians president of baseball operations Chris Antonetti said.

Cleveland, whose winning percentage trailed only Philadelphia's, is in the market for starting pitching.

Detroit, meanwhile, is expected to deal at least one player to bolster a contender's rotation.

Right-hander Jack Flaherty was scheduled to start the series opener against the Guardians, but was scratched four-plus hours before the first pitch.

"This time of year is pretty stressful and putting him on the mound tonight felt like the wrong thing to do for him and for us," Tigers manager A.J. Hinch said.

Tigers president of baseball operations Scott Harris also will have to decide whether it makes sense to trade All-Star Tarik Skubal, who is 12-3 with a 2.35 ERA. Dealing the 28-year-old Flaherty, who has a $14 million, one-year contract and can become a free agent, seems to make sense for a fourth-place team still trying to rebuild.

"He's a really good pitcher, I know that, and it's never fun facing him," Antonetti said. "I'm sure if Scott decides it's the right thing for the Tigers to trade Skubal, he'll get a great return for him."

Flaherty is 7-5 in 18 starts with a 2.95 ERA. Since making his major league debut with St. Louis in 2017, he is 49-39 with a 3.64 ERA.

St. Louis traded him nearly a year ago to Baltimore and he's bracing himself to be on the move again.

"Having dealt with it last year makes it easier," he said. "You just go out and try to make pitches and execute in game. That's all you can do. Everything else is just part of the game. You start to realize that as you get into it."

AP

Cleveland Guardians' Jose Ramírez rounds the bases after a solo home run off Detroit Tigers pitcher Bryan Sammons during the third inning of a baseball game, Monday, July 29, 2024, in Detroit.

Detroit did make several moves before the game, including putting shortstop Javier Báez on the medical emergency list to attend to family matters.

YANKEES 14, PHILLIES 4

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Aaron Judge homered twice to increase his major league-leading total to 39, Jazz Chisholm Jr. hit his first two home runs for the Yankees and New York beat Philadelphia for its first three-game winning streak since early June.

Judge, Chisholm and Ben Rice all took All-Star Zack Wheeler deep in the first two innings, and Judge added a two-run shot against Yunior Marte for a big league-best 99 RBIs.

Anthony Volpe hit his ninth homer of the season, a two-run shot in the eighth, and Chisholm added a ninth-inning homer against catcher Garrett Stubbs to give the Yankees their first six-homer game this season.

New York had not strung together three straight wins since four in a row from June 9-12.

RED SOX 14, MARINERS 7

BOSTON (AP)—Wilyer Abreu capped a 12-pitch at-bat with an RBI single and Masataka Yoshida hit the next pitch for a two-run homer as Boston scored seven runs in the third inning on the way to a victory over Seattle.

Yoshida also had a double among his three hits and drove in four runs. Abreu had two RBIs for Boston, which had lost seven of nine games since the All-Star break.

Dominic Smith added a solo homer and two RBIs, Romy Gonzalez hit a pinch-hit two run shot and the Red Sox had a season-high eight doubles.

Nick Pivetta (5-7) struck out 10 and allowed three runs in 6 2/3 innings.

Randy Arozarena and Cal Raleigh hit solo homers for the Mariners, who had a three-game winning streak halted.

BREWERS 8, BRAVES 3

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Willy Adames hit a three-run homer in the sixth and rookie Jackson Chourio added a two-run shot in the eighth to lift Milwaukee past Atlanta.

Adames' 416-foot home run, his 17th of the season, came off reliever Jesse Chavez (1-2) and put the Brewers in front 4-2. Joey Ortiz's run-scoring triple in the seventh gave Milwaukee a three-run margin and Chourio's homer, his 12th of the season, gave the Brewers a five-run edge.

Marcell Ozuna hit his 31st homer of the season off Milwaukee starter Colin Rea. It careened off a window above the second deck in left to lead off the fourth for the game's first run. Center fielder Garrett Mitchell took away a would-be home run from Eddie Rosario to end the inning.

METS 15, TWINS 2

NEW YORK (AP) —Pete Alonso homered to start a six-run fourth inning and the New York Mets blew out Minnesota in the opener of an interleague series between playoff contenders.

Jeff McNeil and Luis Torrens each drove in three runs for the Mets, who batted around twice in a three-inning span. Every starter had at least one RBI besides newcomer Jesse Winker, who singled and scored in his first Mets start before getting lifted in the sixth.

Winker was acquired from Washington for minor league pitcher Tyler Stuart in a trade finalized Sunday morning.

Jose Quintana (6-6) fell behind 1-0 after five pitches but kept Minnesota off the scoreboard after that, throwing six effective innings to win his second consecutive start.

ORIOLES 11, BLUE JAYS 5, 1ST GAME

BLUE JAYS 8, ORIOLES 4, 2ND GAME

BALTIMORE (AP)—Vladimir Guerrero Jr. homered in both games of a doubleheader, including a solo shot in the nightcap that helped Toronto earn a split with Baltimore Orioles.

Guerrero went 7 for 10 in the doubleheader with five RBIs. In Game 2, he had a homer, three doubles and three RBIs.

Baltimore made three errors in the second game, leading to three unearned runs. Shortstop Jordan Westburg mishandled a throw in a second-inning rundown and threw wildly to first base in a two-run fourth that put Toronto ahead for good.

In the opener, Zach Eflin turned in a gritty pitching performance in his Orioles debut, Anthony Santander hit his 30th home run and Baltimore cruised to an 11-5 victory.

PIRATES 5, ASTROS 3

HOUSTON (AP)—Paul Skenes allowed one earned run over six innings in a no-decision and Michael A. Taylor hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the ninth off Josh Hader that led the Pittsburgh Pirates over the Houston Astros 6-3 on Monday night.

Skenes lowered his ERA from 1.93 to 1.90, giving up two runs, five hits and three walks with six strikeouts. His 103 strikeouts in his first 13 starts trail only Hideo Nomo (119), Kerry Wood (118), Herb Score (107), Jose DeLeon (106), while matching Masahiro Tanaka.

Taylor homered in the ninth off Hader (4-6) for a 5-2 lead on a night fans received replica Hader jerseys as a promotional giveaway. Taylor drove a 96.6 mph sinker 421 feet to left-center for his third homer this season.

Aroldis Chapman (4-4) struck out two in a one-hit eighth and David Bednar earned his 19th save in 22 chances. He forced in a run with a bases-loaded walk to Yordan Alvarez, then retired Yainer Diaz on a game-ending flyout.

ROYALS 8, WHITE SOX 5

CHICAGO (AP)—Bobby Witt Jr.'s grand slam—and fourth hit of the game—capped Kansas City's six-run, eighth inning rally and the Royals beat the Chicago White Sox.

Witt lofted the first pitch he saw from John Brebbia, a low slider, into the left-center stands for 19th homer and third career grand slam. Witt also singled twice and doubled as the Royals handed the major league worst White Sox a franchise-record 15th straight loss.

With Kansas City trailing 5-2 entering the eight, Hunter Renfroe and MJ Melendez hit back-to-back solo drives off reliever Steven Wilson. Brebbia (0-6) hit Adam Frazier with a pitch and issued a walk to Michael Massey before Witt connected.

Luis Robert Jr. had three hits and an RBI, and Andrew Vaughn added a solo shot for the White Sox. At 27-82, Chicago is 55 games below. 500 for the first time in franchise history and has a worse record than the 1962 New York Mets (29-80) through 109 games.

Andrew Benintendi drove in a run with a double, then Paul DeJong followed with an RBI single in Chicago's two-run sixth.

RANGERS 6, CARDINALS 3

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Nathaniel Lowe hit a two-run homer, Nathan Eovaldi worked six solid innings and the Texas snapped a three-game skid with a win over St. Louis.

Wyatt Langford added three hits for the Rangers, who have gone 6-5 since the All-Star break. Corey Seager, Jonah Heim, Adolis Garcia and Leody Taveras also drove in runs for the Rangers.

Matt Carpenter homered for St. Louis, which has lost four of its last five games.

DIAMONDBACKS 9, NATIONALS 8

PHOENIX (AP)—Corbin Carroll hit a pinch-hit homer with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning to cap a five-run rally, and Arizona shocked Washington with a win.

The D-backs trailed 8-4 heading to the ninth, but Geraldo Perdomo's RBI single brought home Alek Thomas and Ketel Marte followed with a two-run homer down the right-field line off Washington closer Kyle Finnegan.

Finnegan (2-5) retired Gabriel Moreno for the first out before Lourdes Gurriel Jr. singled up the middle. That brought up Carroll, the reigning NL Rookie of the Year who has struggled at times this season.

But he jumped all over a Finnegan splitter, launching the ball over the right-center fence to set off a raucous Arizona celebration.

Washington built a big advantage early. C.J. Abrams struck out to start the game, but the next six Nationals reached base on the way to their 5-0 lead. Alex Call had the big blow, launching a three-run homer to left, which was his first long ball of the season. James Wood and Keibert Ruiz also had RBI hits.

Source: Westbrook agrees to 2-year deal with Denver Nuggets

DENVER (AP)—Russell Westbrook has agreed to a two-year contract with the Denver Nuggets, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Friday.

The deal provides Denver with a much-needed backup point guard for oft-injured star Jamal Murray and gives the 35-year-old veteran and nine-time All-Star a chance to play with a championship contender that is one year removed from its first NBA title.

Westbrook, 35, will make the minimum salary of $3,303,711 next season with a minimum-salary player option in 2025-26 worth $3,468,960, according to the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details of the deal that brings a former MVP to a team that lacked depth in the playoffs this summer.

Nikola Jokic endorsed the pursuit of Westbrook after the Nuggets were eliminated by Minnesota in the second round of the playoffs when their lack of depth wore them down during a seven-game series with the jumbo-sized Timberwolves and their deep rotation.

Westbrook averaged a career-low 11.1 points per game while mostly coming off the bench last season for the Los Angeles Clippers, who were bounced by Dallas in the first round of the playoffs.

Westbrook also averaged 5 rebounds and 4.5 assists in a career-low 22.5 minutes per game last season.

The Utah Jazz acquired Westbrook from the Clippers last week in a sign-and-trade deal for point guard Kris Dunn. The Jazz made the move with the anticipation they would buy out Westbrook's contract so he could sign with the Nuggets, and they waived him on Saturday.

The Nuggets were in dire need of guard depth after parting with veterans Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and Reggie Jackson this offseason.

AP

Los Angeles Clippers guard Russell Westbrook moves up the court during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Cleveland Cavaliers, April 7, 2024, in Los Angeles.

FALCONS

From page 16

defensive plays by the White Sox.

In the third, they scored six runs as Antonio Norita hit his second triple of the game that both led to runs scored.

The White Sox pitching staff couldn't hold off the Falcons and by the fourth inning, the damage was done as their offense could not produce, while the Falcons added two more runs from Henry Aguon and J.J. Lifoifoi.

In the fifth, Jerome Delos Santos scored the last run for the White Sox, which led to the eventual 3-14 final score.

In the end, Lifoifoi went for a perfect 2-2 at-bat, scored three runs, collected one RBI, and hit one double, while Norita went 2-for-3 at-bats, scored two runs, and had two RBI, along with his two triples; and Ian Norita had two hits out of three and gathered two RBIs.

In the standings behind the Falcons are the Cardinals at 7-2; Padres and Bandits are 6-2 each; Sandlot have a 6-3 record; Braves are 5-3; Blue Jays are 5-4; Royals have an even 4-4 record; Bears are 4-5; D-9er's are 2-6; Natives haven't won a game and lost eight; while Blue Shark also haven't won a game with nine losses.

When all last regular season games are finished this week—or next week depending on the rain—the postseason schedule will be determined.

VIZION

From page 16

aggressiveness and speed.

With Robles was Arnold Sangoyo who assisted from the 3-point line as well. Then, Dindo Pablo contributed with his wide-open takes at the basket.

Bio-Pro, while they kept pace in the first half at 46-44, eventually tired out later in the game. The trio of Robles, Sangoyo, and Pablo continued their reign of terror on the court, along with some help from the rest of their team.

Bryan Natividad and Ryan Bayna from Bio-Pro tried to help their team with their takes at the basket, but it just wasn't enough as Vizion's defense held them down in the final minutes of the game—until they won from a deficit of 17 points.

Robles smoked the competition as he delivered the biggest blow with almost half of Vizion Insurance's score with 46. Player/coach Sangoyo put his best foot forward and scored 22 points, while Pablo put up 16 markers, and Fradel Sedillo shot 10.

For Bio-Pro, Natividad led the team with 25 markers; Bayna shot 16; Alex Ocampo contributed 12; and Mark Matuguina delivered 10 points.

Pablo, a veteran player who helped assist the coaching staff of Vizion Insurance, said of their championship win, "We're all very happy because we didn't expect to win the championship. We were fifth place going into the playoffs."

Then in the finals, they played against top-seeded Bio-Pro. He added that they also only usually play short-handed with just 5-6 players. He then said, "We credit this championship to teamwork and trust among each other."

Vizion Insurance 107 – Robles 46, Sangoyo 22, Pablo 16, Sedillo 10, Basa 6, Vergara 3, De Belen 2, Morales 2.

Bio-Pro 90 – Natividad 25, Bayna 16, Ocampo 12, Matuguina 10, Guinto 8, S. Ebuen 6, Ajoste 5, Morales 5, O. Ebuen 3.

Scoring by halves: 46-44, 107-90.

KAITHLYN

From page 16

I wouldn't have been able to achieve this, so props to my team and my coaches for giving us this opportunity to be able to have this cup."

As for the tournament, she said, "This was the first time having this cup so it's a good opportunity to show the people—show the island how we play. Most of our games are off-island so it was a great way for our friends and family to watch us play."

With their sweep of all the games, she said, "It was all our hard work. We've been working hard since last month because this was actually delayed—so, all our hard work paid off."

For Baek, she said receiving the award felt pretty good. "I obviously didn't really expect it because there are other pretty good keepers in this tournament and they had pretty good saves, and I'm just thankful to get this award.

Baek, who made a few saves throughout the game as Guam tried hard to find an opening, said that the key was communication with her team. "Just trusting our teammates and just supporting each other," she said. The match, she added, "was pretty good. Just thankful for our team for supporting each other and just being prepared throughout this whole tournament physically and mentally—and we're just happy to win it.

"We've challenged them previously, so we were prepared with what they were going to bring and we just mentally and physically prepared for this game most especially."

Participating teams in this tourney with the NMI were Mongolia and Guam. The NMI beat them both twice and won the championship based on the most points from their win-draw-loss standings.

The NMI scored 10 total goals in four games to claim the championship. Guam came in second with seven goals and an even 2-2 record, while Mongolia scored a goal and lost all four matches to both Guam and the NMI.

LEIGH GASES

NMI keeper Toremy Diaz Baek in action during their final matchup against Guam in the NMIFA Women's U21 Three Nations Cup at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Sunday.

LEIGH GASES

NMI's Jannah Casarino, left, and Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez stand together during a short break in their game after a goal by Casarino in their last matchup against Guam in the NMIFA Women's U21 Three Nations Cup at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Sunday.

NBA BRIEFS

Suns sign Tyus Jones to 1-year deal, adding point guard to aid team's All-Star trio

PHOENIX (AP)—The Phoenix Suns have signed Tyus Jones on a one-year deal, adding a point guard to play with the team's All-Star trio of Kevin Durant, Devin Booker and Bradley Beal. Jones released a statement to ESPN confirming the deal and the player's agency, LIFT Sports Management, reposted the statement. The 6-foot-1 Jones is entering his 10th season in the league and averaged 12 points and 7.3 assists per game for the Washington Wizards last season. Jones also spent four seasons with the Minnesota Timberwolves and another four with the Memphis Grizzlies. Jones shot 49% from the field last season, including 41% from 3-point range. He has a chance to start for the Suns, giving them the true point guard they lacked last season when they were swept out of the first round of the playoffs by the Timberwolves.

Wizards re-sign F Anthony Gill, who has played 4 seasons with Washington

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Washington Wizards have re-signed forward Anthony Gill. The Wizards announced the move Thursday. Gill has appeared in 179 games in four seasons with Washington, making 15 starts. He's averaged 3.6 points and 1.8 rebounds per game. Gill received the team's E.B. Henderson Team Award in April for his work in the community. He was also one of five finalists for the 2023-24 J. Walter Kennedy Citizenship Award. Gill played in college at Virginia and professionally in Russia and Turkey before signing with Washington.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	63	44	.589	–
New York	63	45	.583	½
Boston	56	49	.533	6
Tampa Bay	54	52	.509	8½
Toronto	50	57	.467	13
Central Division				
Cleveland	64	42	.604	–
Minnesota	58	47	.552	5½
Kansas City	58	49	.542	6½
Detroit	52	56	.481	13
Chicago	27	82	.248	38½
West Division				
Seattle	56	52	.519	–
Houston	55	51	.519	–
Texas	52	55	.486	3½
Los Angeles	46	60	.434	9
Oakland	44	64	.407	12

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division				
Philadelphia	65	41	.613	–
Atlanta	56	49	.533	8½
New York	56	50	.528	9
Washington	49	58	.458	16½
Miami	39	67	.368	26
Central Division				
Milwaukee	61	45	.575	–
Pittsburgh	54	52	.509	7
St. Louis	54	52	.509	7
Cincinnati	51	55	.481	10
Chicago	51	57	.472	11
West Division				
Los Angeles	63	44	.589	–
San Diego	57	51	.528	6½
Arizona	56	51	.523	7
San Francisco	53	55	.491	10½
Colorado	38	69	.355	25

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SBL STANDINGS

Falcons	9	1		
Cardinals	7	2		
Padres	6	2		
Bandits	6	2		
Sandlot	6	3		
Braves	5	3		
Blue Jays	5	4		
Royals	4	4		
Bears	4	5		
D-9er's	2	6		
White Sox	2	7		
Natives	0	8		
Blue Shark	0	9		

Nadal loses in what is likely his final singles match of storied career

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Source: Westbrook agrees to 2-year deal with Denver Nuggets

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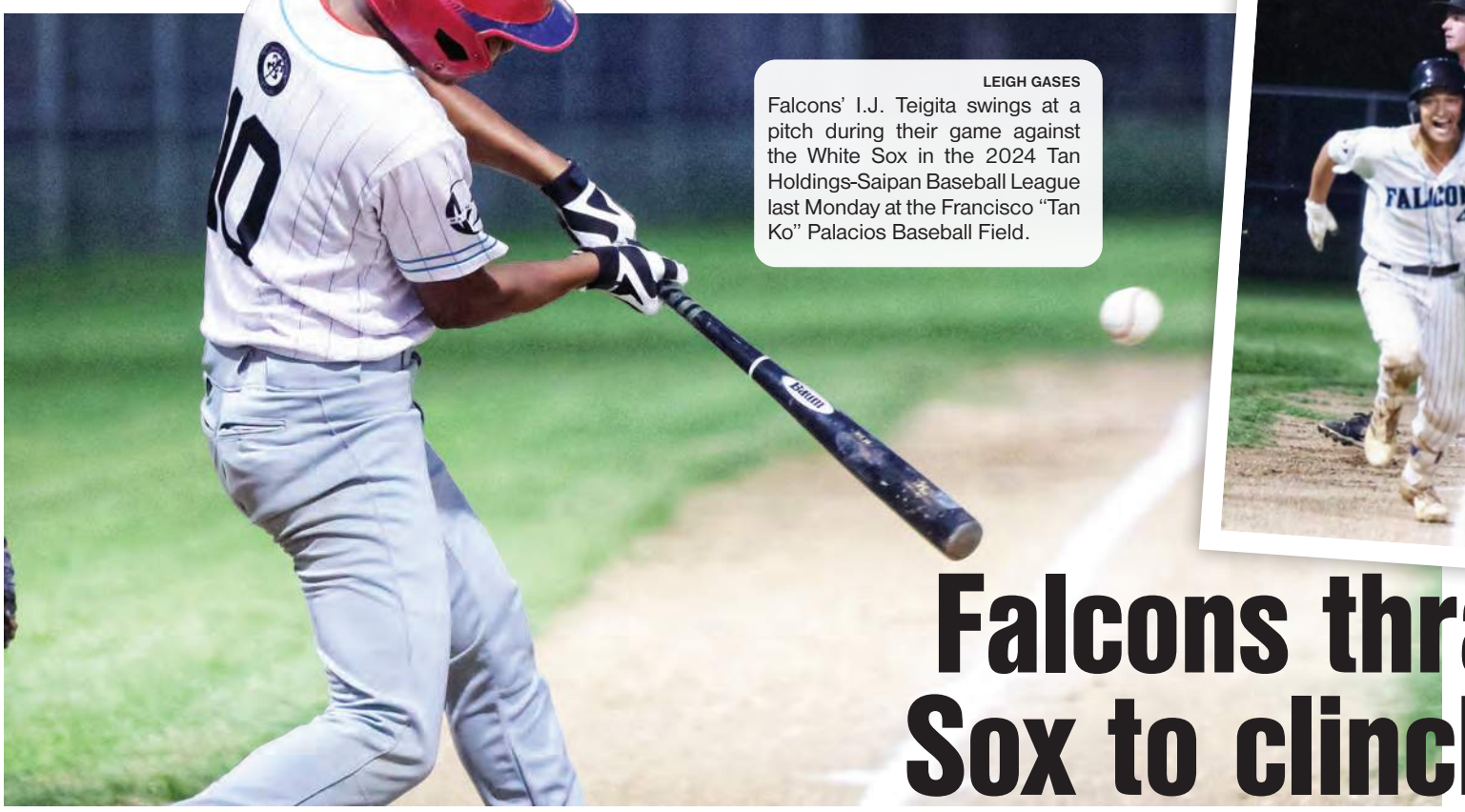

LEIGH GASES
Falcons' I.J. Teigita swings at a pitch during their game against the White Sox in the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

LEIGH GASES
Falcons player Antonio "Tonchu" Norita celebrates on his way home from third base after a defensive error by the White Sox in their game in the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Falcons thrash White Sox to clinch pennant

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

After a weeklong delay due to rain last week, the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League finally got underway last Monday with the Falcons clinching the pennant after a win over the White Sox, 14-3 at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

With their win, the Falcons have the best record heading into the postseason at nine wins and one loss, while the White Sox are near the bottom of the standings at 2-7.

The White Sox were no match against the No. 1 seed Falcons as their pitcher Jonathan Norita held them off from scoring for two innings. The White Sox's Clark Boswell and Ed Manibusan found their way home in the third to put up two runs, but by then, the Falcons had already brought in 12, for a 2-12 game.

The Falcons struck first with a run by leadoff batter A.J. Evangelista in the first inning, followed by five runs in the second from miscued

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Vizion locks in to Destroyers Friendly champs

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
2024 Destroyers Friendly Games League champions Vizion Insurance pose for a group photo with their trophy during the awards ceremony at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium last Sunday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
2024 Destroyers Friendly Games League runner-up Bio-Pro poses for a group photo with their trophy during the awards ceremony at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium last Sunday.

Vizion Insurance locked in on their path to the 2024 Destroyers Friendly Games League championships after they upset top seed Bio-Pro, 107-90, at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium last Sunday.

Vizion Insurance brought their A-game and distanced themselves toward the end despite a neck-and-neck game in the first half. Bio-Pro showed why they were the top seed from near-seamless plays and accurate takes at the basket.

But Vizion Insurance's Ales Robles went on a tear through the court as he scored 10 straight points, then continued his onslaught later in the game. He delivered from within the paint and from 3-point territory, as well as from the free throw line due to his

See VIZION on Page 15

Kaithlyn is MVP, Golden Boot awardee; Toremy is Golden Glove recipient

LEIGH GASES
The NMI's star striker Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez poses with her Golden Boot Award during the awards ceremony of the NMIFA Women's U21 Three Nations Cup at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Sunday. She was also named the Most Valuable Player.

LEIGH GASES
NMI keeper Toremy Diaz Baek poses with her Golden Glove Award during the awards ceremony of the NMIFA Women's U21 Three Nations Cup at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Sunday.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

NMI soccer star Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez was awarded the Most Valuable Player and Golden Boot for her exceptional performance during the NMIFA Women's U21 Three Nations Cup.

Defensively, NMI keeper Toremy Diaz Baek was the Golden Glove Award recipient after holding down Guam to just one goal in their final match, 1-4, that clinched the sweep and championship last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Chavez scored five goals within the tourney's four games—some of which were made during high-pressure and high-stake situations. And, for her performance and show of teamwork and display of skill, she was also given the MVP award for the tourney.

On how she feels receiving her awards, Chavez said, "Honestly, it's all team effort. Without them,

See KAITHLYN on Page 15